UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Time to move beyond "folkloric" approach to multiculturalism, says Kenney

Federal government should focus on official – not heritage languages, minister adds

By Marco Levytsky

Canada needs "to move beyond the 1970's folkloric approach to multiculturalism to one that focuses on more concrete practical challenges that people are facing," says Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney.

As well, the federal government should concentrate on promoting the two official languages instead of heritage ones, he added in a telephone interview with Ukrainian News and Montreal's Ukrainian Time radio program.

The interview had been arranged by Ukrainian News in order to ask the minister to clarify certain comments he had made in a conversation with the editorial board of the Calgary Herald earlier.

Ukrainian Time's Director Simon Kouklewsky asked Ukrainian News Editor Marco Levytsky whether he could record the interview for his listeners and a conference call was arranged.

In a March 28 Op Ed article by Calgary Herald editorial writer Naomi Lakritz, Kenney was quoted as saying:

"I think it's really neat that a fifth-generation Ukrainian Canadian can speak Ukrainian — but pay for it yourself."

He was also quoted as saying:

"We don't need the state to promote diversity. It is a natural part of our civil society."

In asking Kenney to clarify the first statement, Levytsky said that he realized that the statement was made within the context of the federal Heritage Languages program, which Kenney had just cut off funding to, but the three Ukrainian schools in Alberta who would have been eligible for those funds never applied for them because they weren't even aware that such a program existed. Therefore people would naturally assume he was referring to the provincially-funded bilingual and second language programs.

"I didn't mean to speak exclusively about Canadians of Ukrainian origin I was just picking an example of a community which has been long established in Canada where people are still learning the heritage language and I was saying that's really commendable," replied Kenney.

"I think it's a great thing. I wasn't referring to any particular programs that exist, I was simply saying that in my judgement we should be focusing on official languages when it comes to government resources and communities themselves can and should encourage heritage language learning in their own communities"

Kenney continued that he has heard similar comments from community groups across the country and that:

"Community groups feel that teaching heritage languages is a responsibility of a community and its organizations and the diversity of ethnocultural communities do a very good job of it and I was pointing out that the Ukrainian community does a particularly good job of it."

When Levytsky again noted that it is provincial governments, which provide the bulk of funding for heritage languages, Kenney replied:

"Well that's just great. That's up to the provinces. I'm just saying that at the federal level we're focusing

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Христос Воскрес! Воістино Воскрес!

A display of Easter eggs (pysanky) from the collection of Chester and Luba Kuc. Some of them are the work of Chester, others the latest from Ukrainian pysanky writers. The white ones in the middle are a new form of the art — "travleni", or etched pysanky. The process involves letting acid eat out the shell except in those areas that are covered with wax, which then leaves the design. In some of these, part of the eggshell has also been cut out with a special tool. Chester and Luba Kuc participated in a Ukrainian Pysanky Exhibit and Easter Fair at the Ukrainian National Federation hall in Edmonton, March 21-22. The exhibit featured 500 regional pysanky; visual artists: Iryna Karpenko, Stefan Melnychenko and Valeriy Semenko; Ukrainian Easter baking: Babky and Pasky and the new creative and original etched pysanky and crafts from Ukraine. On the weekend of April 3 -5 (between the time this issue of the newspaper was mailed and the time readers get it in their homes), 1,000 pysanky from the collection of Chester and Luba Kuc as well as other private collections, were displayed at the "Celebrating the Art of Pysanky" exhibit at St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre in Calgary. The exhibit also featured artifacts from the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Calgary Collection and Alberta Branch (Edmonton).

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Premier greets Shumka

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach went backstage to greet the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers just before the start of their first of two 50th Anniversary Concerts at Edmonton's Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, March 19. After congratulating them, the premier and his party posed for this group picture. Wearing the business suits from left are: Aboriginal Relations Minister and Deputy Government House Leader Gene Zwozdesky, Shumka's Artistic Director Gordon Gordey, Premier Stelmach, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit Lindsay Blackett, and Parliamentary Assistant for Municipal Affairs Thomas Lukaszuk. For more on Shumka's concert, see pages 12 and 13 of this issue.

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Обама з Медведєвим починають зі скорочення озброєнь

Марія Щур, *Радіо Свобода*

Перша зустріч віч-на-віч президента США Барака Обами і його російського колеги Дмітрія Медведєва у Лондоні засвідчила бажання лідерів двох країн шукати точки дотику. Однак, попри оптимістичні заяви з обох сторін, між Вашинґтоном і Москвою залишаються серйозні розбіжності.

Зустріч у весняному Лондоні принесла потепління у стосунки Америки і Росії. У спільній заяві президенти обох країн заявили про намір досягнути нової угоди про скорочення озброєнь. Також Барак Обама повідомив журналістів, що він прийняв запрошення президента Дмітрія Медведєва відвідати Москву у липні, що за словами Обами, є набагато приємніший час для візиту, ніж січень.

Переговори про скорочення озброєнь домовилися «розпочати негайно», з тим щоб перші обриси нової угоди з'явилися до липневої зустрічі президентів.

Після зустрічі з Медведєвим Обама випромінював оптимізм: «Я сподіваюсь, що з огляду на конструктивну розмову, яку ми сьогодні мали, та спільні заяви, які ми ще будемо робити щодо скорочення ядерних арсеналів та низки інших питань, які становлять спільний інтерес, ми є свідками нового поступу в американсько-російських стосунках».

У схожому тоні висловлювався і російський президент: «Це лише початок обговорень, але вже сьогоднішнє обговорення, на мій погляд, показало, що є набагато більше позицій, що нас об'єднують, ніж тих, що нас розводять по різні боки».

Президенти Росії Дмітрій Медведєв та США Барак Обама під час зустрічі у Лондоні, 1 квітня 2009 р.

Обама і Медведєв також домовилися співпрацювати у питанні Афґаністану, заявивши, що «Аль-Каїда» та інші терористичні й повстанські групи, які діють на території Афґаністану й Пакистану, створюють загальну небезпеку для багатьох країн, включно зі Сполученими Штатами та Росією». Таким чином, Москва і Вашинґтон погодилися «співпрацювати й підтримувати міжнародні зусилля, в яких визначальну роль відіграє ООН».

Щодо Ірану спільна заява говорить, що хоча Іран, згідно з Договором про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї, «має право на цивільну ядерну програму», Тегеран «повинен відновити впевненість у тому, що йдеться про програму суто мирного характеру».

Два президенти визнали, що між ними зберігаються розбіжності щодо розташування американських протиракетних систем у східній Європі, але не виключили можливості співпраці у цьому питанні.

Також Москва і Вашинґтон визнали, що вони по-різному дивляться на «причини і перебіг воєнних дій» між Росією і Грузією в серпні минулого року.

Напередодні зустрічі адміністрація Обами говорила про «перезапуск» стосунків із Росією.

Але, за словами прес-секретаря Білого Дому Роберта Ґіббза, ніхто не має думати, що зміна у стосунках означає, що «*кожний отримає* те, чого він хоче».

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Christ is Risen

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СБУ оприлюднить нові матеріали про злочинні дії НКВС-КДБ

(Радіо Свобода)—Служба безпеки України має намір оприлюднити нові документи про так звані оперативно-бойові групи і легендовані проводи ОУН, які були створені НКВС-КДБ СРСР для дискредитації українського національно-визвольного руху і вчинення насильства над мирним населенням.

Про це повідомив головний спеціаліст галузевого державного архіву СБУ Володимир Іванченко, який узяв участь у відкритті у Рівному тематичної виставки документів «УПА. Історія нескорених», 1 квітня.

За словами Іванченка, нині ще невідома точна кількість спецгруп і окремих агентів, які під виглядом бійців Української Повстанської Армії (УПА) дискредитували українських повстанців і скоювали злочини й насильство проти мирного населення.

Цій темі буде присвячене одне з наступних громадських слухань, які регулярно проводить СБУ.

«Можна говорити про сотні оперативно-бойових груп, матеріали про які уже зібрані», – зазначив працівник архіву.

Відповідаючи на запитання щодо заяв представників російського Міністерства закордонних справ про наміри оприлюднити нові архівні документи, які нібито свідчать про «злочини» ОУН і УПА проти українського народу та їх співпрацю з німецько-фашистськими загарбниками, Іванченко повідомив, що з російською стороною постійно обговорюються питання щодо розсекречення архівів про український національно-визвольний рух, однак не завжди вдається досягти взаєморозуміння і позитивних результатів.

Конґрес Українців Канади

Щиро вітає українську канадську громаду з нагоди Світлого Воскресіння Христового. Хай святкові дзвони Великодня принесуть у Вашу оселю радість, віру, надію і любов.

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RCI's Ukrainian section cut

UCC issues action call to overturn decision

(UkrNews)—After 57 years of broadcasting into Ukraine, Radio Canada International has decided to cut its Ukrainian section.

And the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has issued an action call for Canadians to write letters of protest in the hope this decision may be reversed.

The surprise announcement was made to the two-member staff of the Ukrainian Section on March 25 in Montreal.

The half-hour program was aired Saturdays and Sundays since it was cut in half in November 2004, after over 50 years of broadcasting on a daily basis.

The final Ukrainian-language broadcast at RCI was slated for March 28-29.

Asked by Montreal broadcaster Simon Kouklewsky about the cancellation during the March 27 telephone interview arranged by Ukrainian News, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney said that was the first he heard about this but will look into it.

He added that it probably came about because of the economies announced recently by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and that the government has actually increased funding for the CBC, but they remain an independent organization.

"We don't want a system where the government is intervening and management decisions within a crown corporation like the CBC," he added.

Nevertheless, he will raise the issue with the minister of heritage so that he can raise it with the chairman of the CBC, said Kenney.

On March 25 CBC Toronto's Margo Kelly reported:

"Canada's national public broadcaster, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is cutting 800 full-time jobs in a bid to balance its budget. The president of the CBC Hubert Lacroix told employees today that the network is facing a budget shortfall of $171 million. He also said he had been unsuccessful at convincing the federal government to give it an advance to deal with the situation. Mr. Lacroix says the network will cut 400 jobs at the CBC, about 330 at the French-speaking Radio-Canada and another 70 corporate positions. The network is also offering voluntary retirement packages.

"The budget cuts will also affect Radio Canada International which is part of the CBC.

It has already been announced that the Ukrainian language section will cease broadcasting this weekend after 57 years."

March 27 the UCC called upon RCI "to overturn their decision to permanently shutdown the Ukrainian Section of RCI effective this week after 57 years of service to Canada."

"We understand that the Ukrainian Section of RCI is the only foreign language department to be terminated," stated Paul Grod, UCC National President.

"Such a decision is unconscionable and is out of line with the Government of Canada's commitment to Ukraine as one of its top strategic bilateral partner countries."

Under the UCC's action call, Ukrainian Canadians are urged to write to Lacroix, cabinet ministers and MPs protesting the decision and sign an online petition.

If you wish to sign the petition and access all the addresses and e-mail links the UCC has provided for letters of protest, please visit <www.ucc.ca>.

Time to move beyond "folkloric" approach to multiculturalism, says Kenney

Cont. from Page 1

on official languages. I'm not commenting one way or another on whether Alberta or any other province should have them (heritage languages). That's up to them."

As for the statement that we don't need the state to promote diversity, Levytsky noted that the quote appeared to be in contradiction to Section 3 (1) of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, which states:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada to

"(a) recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism reflects the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society and acknowledges the freedom of all members of Canadian society to preserve, enhance and share their cultural heritage;".

Kenney replied that the government obviously supports the principles of multiculturalism, but as "a country that has one of the highest immigration levels in the world we need to ensure that our diversity doesn't lead to a kind of European situation of parallel ethnic communities."

Therefore the government will try to focus on the challenges to integration faced by newcomers.

"We need a multiculturalism program which is relevant to the challenges of the 21st century not the 1970's. When the program began the focus was on promoting the diversity of particular ethnocultural communities. My point is that diversity is such a well-rooted fact in Canada, is so well accepted as a positive thing and an inextricable part of Canadian society and the cultural communities are big enough, robust enough that they don't need taxpayer grants to promote their own particular cultural traditions."

At that point he reiterated that the government will try to focus multicultural program on immigration and integration, adding:

"We need to move beyond the 1970's folkloric approach to multiculturalism to one that focuses on more concrete practical challenges that people are facing"

When Levytsky said that some ethnocultural groups have become mainstream, using the example of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Kenney said that's one way of looking at it.

"What was seen as exotic in the 1960s or 70s is now seen as mainstream."

He added that groups like the Shumka dancers have not been receiving funding from the multiculturalism program for years, but they have been receiving funding as artistic ventures, which means we no longer put groups from ethno-cultural communities in a separate box.

During the interview Kouklewsky asked a question about the cancellation of the Ukrainian section of Radio Canada International, while Levytsky asked another question about federal funding for the new facility of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta.

Those two issues are covered in two separate stories in this edition of Ukrainian News.

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Ющенко: Дострокові вибори парламенту можливі

(Радіо Свобода)—Говорячи про можливість дострокових виборів, Президент Віктор Ющенко наголосив, що це має відбуватися одночасно зі змінами до виборчого законодавства та «модернізацією Конституції»

Президент, відповідаючи в інтерв'ю телеканалові «Інтер» 29 березня на запитання, чи можливі дострокові парламентські вибори до чергових виборів Президента у січні 2010 року, відповів: «Можливо».

Водночас Віктор Ющенко наголосив, що це має відбуватися одночасно зі змінами до виборчого законодавства та «модернізацією Конституції України».

«Нам потрібно дійти до єдності навколо впровадження нової виборчої системи, вийти на відкриті списки, виборець має давати підтримку тій людині, яка буде персонально представляти через партійну призму його територію у вищому законодавчому органі», – наголосив Президент, зауваживши, що це є головною відповіддю на те, як декриміналізувати парламент.

За його словами, минулого тижня з цього питання він мав розмову з Головою Верховної Ради України Володимиром Литвином.

Президент зазначив, що сьогодні у парламенті зареєстровано 6–7 законопроектів щодо зміни виборчого законодавства, й спочатку планували створити робочу групу, яка б узагальнила ці проекти в один.

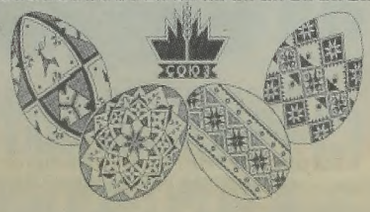
Я не вірю цьому варіантові, тому я запропонував винести на голосування всі законопроекти, які там є. І якщо нам потрібно зробити один законопроект, який би найбільше консолідував, я готовий через правовий апарат Секретаріату Президента внести той варіант, який би найбільше відповідав ключовим сторонам, які збираються підтримати цей варіант, і від свого імені внесу його», – сказав Віктор Ющенко.

Зокрема, голова держави пропонує провести рейтингове голосування по всіх виборчих законопроектах, і в разі, якщо жоден з них не набере достатньої кількості голосів, він готовий внести власний проект, що, на його думку, зміг би знайти підтримку ключових сил у парламенті.

Президент в інтерв'ю телеканалові «Інтер» назвав проект змін до Конституції, які розроблялись Блоком Юлії Тимошенко в середині минулого року, «досить одіозним», оскільки в ньому, за його словами, ставилось завдання, «як поділити країну на двох».

«Переконаний, що цей проект неприйнятний, я кажу про ту редакцію, що була приблизно десь у липні минулого року», – сказав Віктор Ющенко, коментуючи заяви, що наразі знову активізувались перемовини між БЮТ та Партією регіонів щодо ухвалення змін до Конституції.

«Якщо мова йде про те, як розділити країну, розділити владу, на п'ять, десять років закріпити Прем'єр-міністра, чи Голову Верховної Ради, чи Президента призначати в парламенті 226 голосами – це не моя Конституція, і я все зроблю, щоб цього не було», – наголосив Віктор Ющенко.



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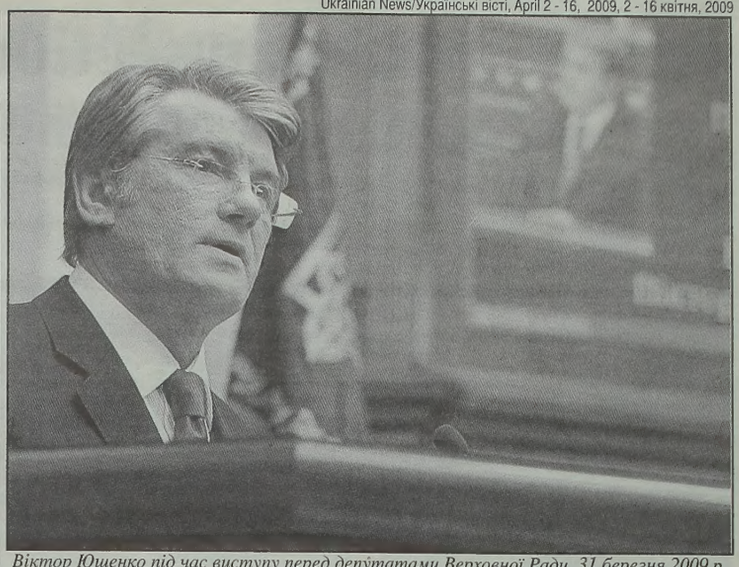

Віктор Ющенко під час виступу перед депутатами Верховної Ради, 31 березня 2009 р.

У Верховній Раді мало охочих стати депутатами Національних Зборів

Дмитро Шурхал, *Радіо Свобода*

31 березня Президент Віктор Ющенко передав на розгляд Верховної Ради свій проект нової Конституції України. Парламентарі відреагували на представлені Президентом новації здебільшого негативно. А реалізацію окреслених Главою держави реформ вважають за нездійсненну.

Виступаючи зі щорічним посланням до Верховної Ради, Віктор Ющенко розпочав зі здобутків попередніх чотирьох років свого президентства.

Передусім Глава держави зауважив, що країна стала демократичнішою.

«Двічі опозиція приходила до влади шляхом вільних і чесних виборів. Уже чотири роки для нас звичною є свобода слова і вибору. Цього не було досі. Сьогодні це природно, немов повітря», – зауважив Президент.

Віктор Ющенко зазначив, що зараз ситуація в Україні складна, але не катастрофічна. Її можна виправити, проводячи адекватну викликам часу політику. Голова держави закликав до реформування майже в усіх сферах: економічній, соціальній, політичній, судовій та правоохоронній.

Гостре несприйняття в сесійній залі викликали слова Віктора Ющенка про необхідність запровадження в Україні двопалатного парламенту (парламентська президія двічі закликала депутатів до спокою).

«Я пропоную перейти до двопалатної побудови парламенту з одночасним зменшенням загальної чисельності народних обранців, – заявив Президент. – Крім цього, має бути нарешті виконана принципова вимога людей – скасування необмеженої депутатської недоторканності. Всі умови назріли. Показово, що більшість країн європейського континенту, які є унітарними, мають двопалатні парламенти (назву Чехію, Польщу, Францію). Державі потрібен парламент європейського зразка – Національні Збори України, що будуть поєднувати в собі і політичне, і територіальне представництво».

Невдовзі депутати не шкодували критики на адресу конституційних ініціатив Президента. Проти двопалатного парламенту виступили Голова Верховної Ради Володимир Литвин та Прем'єр-міністр Юлія Тимошенко. Також спікер Литвин зауважив, що у президентському проекті Конституції багато суперечностей.

Натомість лідер Партії регіонів Віктор Янукович Президента критикував стримано і здебільшого говорив про недієздатність уряду та необхідність дострокових парламентських виборів.

«Поки в Парламенті не буде створена дієздатна коаліція, не буде працювати уряд, – заявив лідер найбільшої опозиційної фракції парламенту. – Фактично, цей уряд – це уряд тимчасовий, який не знає, коли він піде у відставку. Тож і немає налаштованості на завтрашній день, тому уряд не може в таких умовах працювати ефективно… Пропозиція, яка сьогодні пролунала з боку Президента про зміни до Конституції, – я вважаю, пролунала трошки із запізненням».

Щодо інших пропозицій Президента, то головне зауваження депутатів із різних фракцій полягало в тому, що Президентові варто було б пропонувати реформи не в останній, а в перший рік своєї каденції.

«Аби Ющенко в 2005 році звернувся з таким посланням, ми б оцінили його як гідне, цікаве і переконливе, – зауважив віце-спікер Микола Томенко. – Але він виступив із цим зверненням у 2009 році».

Зараз, напередодні президентських виборів, Верховна Рада неспроможна до активної законотворчої діяльності. За таких умов окреслені Президентом реформи не мають реальних шансів на реалізацію. Адже чим менше часу залишається до президентських виборів, тим менш дієздатним стає парламент.

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Presidential election set for Oct. 25

(Ukrainian Journal)—Pro-government and opposition groups, in a rare show of unity, voted overwhelmingly April to schedule the next presidential election on Oct. 25, three months earlier than required by the constitution.

The vote is aimed against President Viktor Yushchenko and comes amid speculations among lawmakers that the president was about to sign a decree dismissing Parliament, following its inability to approve anti-crisis bills.

The development may spark a new wave of political tensions and could lead again to a constitutional crisis, the second one over the past two years, underscoring the need for new constitutional amendments.

"This decision is illegal, unconstitutional and politically motivated," Yushchenko said at a press conference in Myrhorod, the Poltava region. "I, as the president, would like to stress firmly and clearly that the election will be held within the timeframe anticipated in the constitution."

The vote was backed by 401 lawmakers in the 450-seat Parliament, the rare show of unity between lawmakers loyal to Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the opposition Regions Party, centrist group led by Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn and by the pro-Russian Communist Party.

Even 26 lawmakers — or more than a third — of Yushchenko's own group, Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense, backed the motion, underscoring the split within the group, part of which is now effectively controlled by Tymoshenko.

Yushchenko was sworn in as the president on Jan. 23, 2005, after defeating then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, the leader of the Regions Party, in the Supreme Court-ordered re-run of the runoff on Dec. 26, 2004. The re-run was ordered after the court had taken into account reports of alleged massive fraud in favor of Yanukovych, who had campaigned on pro-Russian platform.

The current constitution stipulates the next presidential election must be held on Sunday of the last month when president's full five years in office expire. This suggests the election must be held on Jan. 17, 2010. The constitution also says Parliament should approve the exact date.

But Tymoshenko's loyalists cited the previous constitution, which had expired on January 1, 2006, as the reason behind their decision to set the date of the election on October 25.

"Yes, the constitutional amendments were approved in [December] 2004, but they had come into force on Jan. 1, 2006," Andriy Kozhemiakin, a senior member of the Tymoshenko Bloc, said. He argued that since Yushchenko won the 2004 election according to the previous constitution, it must be used for calculating the date for the next election.

Yushchenko disagreed with such logic and will probably appeal Parliament's decision in the Constitutional Court.

"Of course, the president will appeal to the Constitutional Court," Maryna Stadniychuk, a deputy chief of staff at the Yushchenko's office, said. "I don't think that a period has been put in this issue, only several question marks."

Meanwhile, there were speculations among lawmakers that real reasons for setting the date of the next election early were mounting fears that Yushchenko may soon sign the decree dismissing Parliament.

The constitution does not let president dismiss Parliament less then six months before the end of the presidency. If the presidential election is to be held on October 25 that means Parliament cannot be dismissed after April 25, which gives the president almost no room for maneuver.

"As far as I know lawmakers have been scared that there is the decree on the president's desk setting early parliamentary election," Oleksandr Yefremov, a senior member of the Regions Party, said.

The speculations mounted March 31 after Parliament had failed to approve most of the anti-crisis bills submitted by Tymoshenko's government.

This failure, which jeopardizes resumption of lending from the International Monetary Fund, shows that Tymoshenko, despite her earlier claims, does not control the majority in Parliament, which may open door for the early parliamentary election later this year.

Opposition disrupts debate on IMF reform

(RFE/RL/Reuters)—Ukraine's opposition on April 2 disrupted debate in parliament on measures to restore IMF credits, a day ahead of street protests against economic hardship.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, pressing for approval of the bills, accused the opposition Regions Party of torpedoing efforts to limit the effects of the global financial crisis.

The action underscored the ex-Soviet state's political and economic difficulties as the crisis reduces markets for exports and cuts jobs and living standards more than four years after the Orange Revolution brought pro-Western politicians to power.

It took place a day after the assembly, in a rare moment of near-consensus against President Viktor Yushchenko, called an October 25 presidential election, earlier than anticipated.

The Regions Party, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, stormed the rostrum as the session opened and hung posters in the chamber reading, "Leaders resign, end the crisis!"

"The blocking of parliament today is halting legislative action against the crisis and is hurting every citizen of Ukraine," Tymoshenko told a cabinet meeting. "I would not like to see the Regions Party act in the same way as Somali pirates. They may want to boost their poll ratings, but let them not destroy the country in doing so."

Tymoshenko said she believed the International Monetary Fund would announce later in the day when it intended to send a mission back to Kyiv to discuss a resumption of credits.

Ukrainian politics since Yushchenko's election in 2004 has been dominated by constant sniping between the president and Tymoshenko, twice appointed prime minister.

Yanukovych, who served as prime minister for a year between Tymoshenko's two terms, demands the resignation of all Ukrainian leaders, including the president and prime minister, and the staging of early parliamentary and presidential elections.

His party refuses to back legislation sought by the IMF to restore the credits, saying the government has failed to produce a credible program to tackle the crisis.

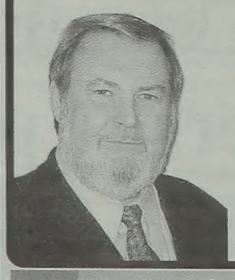
It has called street protests for April 3 against government policy, but rallies last week attracted smaller than anticipated crowds, even in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, its heartland.

The IMF released the first tranche of a $16.4-billion loan last year, but subsequent installments have been suspended in a disagreement over a reform program.

The fund's mission left Kyiv in February without taking a decision on the second tranche or setting a date for its return.

Parliament on March 31 passed two bills, part of a package needed to restore the flow of credits, on raising excise taxes.

But the chamber declined even to place on the agenda other pieces of legislation intended to balance the finances of Ukraine's pension fund and state energy company Naftogaz.



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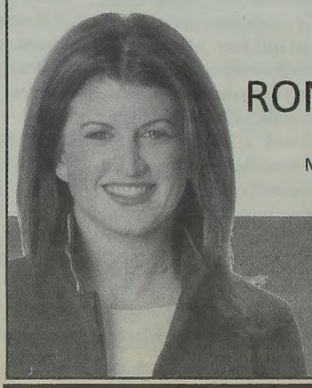

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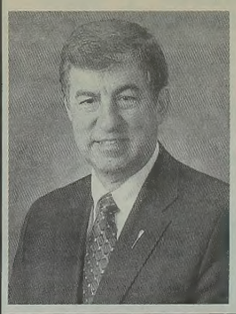

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Linguistic capabilities stimulate the mind: Diversity promotes integration

Editorial

To the rapturous delight of CanWest writers such as Naomi Lakritz and Kevin Libin, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney has started questioning some of the core principles of the Multiculturalism Program he has been charged with administering in a ministerial capacity.

Calgary Herald writer Lakritz swooned over such comments as: "We don't need the state to promote diversity"; and "I think it's really neat that a fifth-generation Ukrainian Canadian can speak Ukrainian — but pay for it yourself." Libin's piece, which was headlined "This man wants to reinvent Canadian multiculturalism", was given an extraordinary play in the March 28 edition of The National Post. It focused on how Canada should move towards the U.S. "melting pot" concept instead of our own "mosaic". In an interview with this newspaper, Kenney stated: "We need to move beyond the 1970's folkloric approach to multiculturalism to one that focuses on more concrete practical challenges that people are facing."

Let's put a few things in their proper perspective. Anything a federal multiculturalism minister has to say about funding for Ukrainian language programs is completely irrelevant to the issue — especially when he's an MP from Alberta, talking to the Editorial Board of an Alberta newspaper. The Heritage Languages Program that Kenney scrapped was the best-kept secret in Ottawa. It involved some minimal grants to community-run after-hours schools such as Ridna Shkola, or the Ivan Franko School. None of these had ever benefited from this program because they weren't even aware it existed. That is not surprising. When we searched the Government of Canada web site for "Heritage + Languages + Program", we came up with nothing. When we just input "heritage languages", we came up with all sorts of links — all of them related to provincial programs.

And that's the point. When one is talking about funding the teaching of languages like Ukrainian, Italian, Polish, Cantonese, Hebrew, Arabic and all other heritage languages, one is talking about provincial — not federal funding. This, despite section 3 (i) of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act which calls upon the Government of Canada to "preserve and enhance the use of languages other than English and French, while strengthening the status and use of the official languages of Canada."

Despite Kenney's concession that he isn't really telling the provinces what to do, his comments may be picked up as ammunition by those elements who feel that the provinces should not be funding the teaching of any languages other than English or French within the educational system. But the fact is knowledge of languages is a definite pedagogical asset. Aside from the proven intellectual stimulation increased linguistic capabilities provide — they also foster international communications and understanding. And in an era of globalization, knowledge of languages becomes a key economic asset. Maybe if we stopped using the term "heritage languages" and started calling them "international trade languages" — which they are — those elements opposed to public funding of language education would change their tune.

Furthermore, say you cut the teaching of languages other than English or French out of the school system, where do you draw the line? Cut out art, music, literature, social studies and so on?

The argument that if people want to teach their children another language they should pay for it themselves also ignores the fact that members of ethnocultural minorities are taxpayers too and deserve some services for the money they pay into the common kitty — federal, provincial and municipal. If we want to start a process where people with specific interests have to pay for it themselves, then let's go across the board — and this includes tax or land concessions. Want a recreational centre? Pay for it yourself. Want a golf course? Pay for it yourself. Want a hockey arena? Pay for it yourself. Want a new science centre in Calgary? Pay for it yourself. Want a road to your oil sands plant? Pay for it yourself. The list goes on and on.

Kenney also says that the state has no role to play in promoting diversity. In actual fact, previous governments paid lip service to multiculturalism, but never did much to promote diversity in practical terms. So Kenney cutting off a few grants here and there does not amount to that much in those practical terms. But the fact that he is questioning the very principles of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, and getting such accolades in certain quarters for doing so, is unsettling.

Kenney says he wants to avoid the creation of ethnic enclaves like in Europe. Well European states aren't multicultural states. They are historically unicultural. Neither does the United States recognize its multicultural reality. It considers itself a "melting pot". Yet ethnocultural and racial enclaves, as well as ethnocultural and racial segregation are much more prevalent in the United States and in Europe than they are in Canada — an officially multicultural state. So, instead of creating segregation, Canada's official recognition of its diversity is actually promoting integration.

Therefore, we have to be very vigilant when hearing comments like we don't need the state to promote diversity and if people want to preserve heritage languages — pay for it yourself. Because, taken in the context of the overall agenda, the term "integration" appears to be a code word for "assimilation."

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Levytsky maintains non-partisan stand

The Letter the Edmonton Journal didn't print

(Ed. Note: During the course of March The Edmonton Journal printed a number of opinion piece and letters regarding relations between the Ukrainian community and mew Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff. It started with an Op Ed piece by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn stating that Ignatieff alienates the Ukrainian community, was followed up with letters by Ukrainian News Editor Marco Levytsky and Etobicoke Centre MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj reporting on the meeting Ignatieff held with member of the Ukrainian community in Edmonton, February 27 [see Ukrainian News, March 5-17, 2009] then a letter by Ihor Broda noting Ignatieff's often contradictory stances The series closed with a letter by Nestor Gayowsky who alleged that both Wrzesnewskyj and Levytsky are letting partisanship cloud their judgement. What the journal did not print, however, was a letter by Andrew Hladyshevsky refuting Gayowsky's unfounded charges of partisanship aimed at Levytsky. We are therefore reprinting his letter here to set the record straight.)

Re: "Don't be too quick to praise Ignatieff," by Nestor Gayowsky, Letters March 22

It was with profound interest that I read Mr. Gayowsky's letter and commentary regarding the Ukrainian Canadian community's meeting with Michael Ignatieff on February 27th, 2009 and Marco Levytsky's March 13 letter to the Journal describing that meeting. I agree with Mr. Gayowsky's praise and assertion that MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj is partisan. He is a loyal and dedicated Liberal and as pointed out is a tremendous asset to the Ukrainian Canadian community. His points about redress are a trifle misleading and Mr. Gayowsky should have contacted the writer as one of the community negotiators to properly reflect the positive contributions on redress made by both the Conservatives and Liberals and the unfinished business that the present or future Prime Minister must still address (another topic for later discussion).

However, the allegation that Mr. Levytsky's letter was biased and partisan is both unfair and unfounded.

As the sun rose on Mr. Gayowsky's Qualicum Beach, I attended this meeting with over twenty other members of the Ukrainian Canadian community. Present were many supporters of the Conservatives, Liberals and the NDP. Mr. Ignatieff was asked several direct, probing and provocative questions by those present. His responses were candid, clear and substantive. Mr. Levytsky reported this accurately in the Ukrainian News and in his letter of June 13th to the Journal. A seasoned journalist sometimes reports factually on an event in a manner that others do not wish to hear.

At no point in the letter did Levytsky urge the Ukrainian Canadian community to vote for Ignatieff or to support the Liberals over the Conservatives. All he stated was that the Ukrainian Canadian community should make peace with Ignatieff – which is something totally different.

Neither did he at any point state that Ignatieff's positions on Ukrainian Canadian issues were better than those of the Conservatives. He kept the Conservatives out of the letter, because the meeting was not about Liberals or Conservatives, but about Ignatieff's relationship with the Ukrainian community.

What Levytsky did do was put the commitments Ignatieff made to the Ukrainian Canadian community on the public record so that we could hold him accountable to them should he become prime minister. And he noted that it is these statements we should concentrate on instead of dwelling on something that was written 17 years ago and taken out of context in the first place. This is what journalists do.

I have been a subscriber to Ukrainian News for many years and I know that when the Liberals were in power he was critical of them whenever such criticism was justified in terms of policies affecting the Ukrainian Canadian community and praised them whenever such praise was due. He has done the same with the Conservatives.

It is not his practice to endorse any political party over another during elections, but instead to single out individuals in all the major parties who deserve support because of what they have done. During the most recent federal election he endorsed six Conservatives, five Liberals and two NDP-ers. Not exactly a partisan stance.

Ukraine's modern history and NATO

By Ihor Ostash,
Embassy Newspaper, Mar. 25, 2009

The contemporary history of Ukraine is the history of a European state which is committed to sharing and protecting the common values and responsibilities of its European family, promoting peace and security, and further strengthening the Euro-Atlantic area.

A course towards integration into the Euro-Atlantic security structures and future NATO membership is one of the key foreign policy priorities of Ukraine. This strategic course is written in the Ukrainian laws and has no alternatives, as has been repeatedly emphasized by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. This is our way to ensure our sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and prosperity.

Ukraine started its dialogue with NATO soon after getting independence when, in March 1992, it joined the North-Atlantic Co-operation Council. Later, this dialogue was significantly expanded and is currently developing within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and NATO-Ukraine Commission, established according to the NATO-Ukraine Charter signed in 1997.

Ukraine became the first post-Soviet country to join the Partnership for Peace Framework Document on Jan. 10, 1994, and is successfully using the NATO experience and aid to reform its defence and security sectors to reach military compatibility with NATO allies' armed forces, as well as deepening co-operation in other spheres of mutual concern.

Ukraine is the only non-NATO country that participates in every alliance peacekeeping activity. Kyiv has been and will remain a reliable partner for Western efforts to build regional stability.

We make our contribution to fight terrorism and keep public order under the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Ukraine has also opened its air space for NATO aircraft within the framework of this operation, and has pledged to provide military and technical assistance to Afghanistan. We suggest using Security Service of Ukraine facilities to instruct and train Afghan special forces and services. As well, Ukraine is committed to further increase its capabilities in Afghanistan.

Other Ukrainians continue their efforts in the NATO Kosovo Force, as well in the anti-terrorist Operation Active Endeavor in the Mediterranean Sea. Ukraine is considering an opportunity to increase the number of its personnel in the NATO training mission in Iraq.

All this is nothing less than solid proof that our country remains committed to providing strong support for the alliance's peacekeeping and humanitarian missions and operations.

Nowadays, Ukraine pays serious attention to the development of practical co-operation with NATO, widening the spheres of interaction, demonstrating that we are an active contributor to the collective security rather than merely a consumer.

We joined the Air Situation Data Exchange program, which will assist the joint fight against terrorism, while last year, the decision was made that our country will take part in the NATO Response Force.

Active work is underway to widen our co-operation with NATO in the spheres of cyber defence, the fight against piracy, and implementation of the United Kingdom/France initiative to strengthen the alliance's helicopter capabilities. Ukraine constantly provides its services for the strategic airlift needs of the alliance.

We consistently develop co-operation in combating trafficking in human beings, drugs, weapons and money laundering. There is also fruitful interaction in the fields of ammunition destruction, civil emergency response, environmental security and civil emergency planning, technology and environmental rehabilitation of the former military facilities, retraining and social adaptation of the discharged military personnel.

As you see, it takes some time just to enumerate the different aspects of our co-operation with NATO.

Without exaggeration, last year was crucial for the development of relations between Ukraine and NATO. The Bucharest summit decision on Ukraine's future membership in the alliance and December's ministerial decision about the Annual National Program (ANP) gave us the effective and sufficient ground to move forward on our Euro-Atlantic course.

Commentary

Our path towards NATO membership is a challenging one, but we are deeply inspired to walk it until reaching our goal, shoulder to shoulder with our NATO partners.

Nowadays, we concentrate our efforts primarily on the elaboration of the first ANP. We look at the ANP as an effective and sufficient format for our preparation and meeting the criteria for future NATO membership.

At the same time, we are taking into account the importance of public support for our move towards Euro-Atlantic integration. With this in mind, the government of Ukraine is providing the necessary information and is educating the people about the role and place of NATO in the modern system of international relations, as well as on Ukraine's relations with the alliance within the framework of the 2008-2011 State Program on Informing the Ukrainian Society on Euro-Atlantic Integration. Active work in this sphere has already brought about some positive results. Latest polling shows that 30 per cent of Ukrainians stand for joining NATO as soon as possible. This number shows the rise in support of the Euro-Atlantic course by 10 per cent compared to the previous survey in April-June 2008.

We hope that the reinforced NATO information and liaison offices in Kyiv will also play an active role in the popularization of NATO in Ukraine.

Last year saw efforts at all levels become more active than ever to prove that Ukraine's NATO aspirations are not fake but a vital foreign policy priority of our country. Active consultations at different levels have been more evidence of the true nature of our course. That could be seen in the unprecedented political activity of Ukrainian and NATO officials. This dialogue has been constantly deepened and strengthened by increasing the number of high-level contacts at NATO-Ukraine Commission meetings, visits of the Ukrainian prime minister, vice-prime minister, ministers and deputy ministers for foreign affairs and defence, emergency and other top officials to Brussels.

The NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting on March 5 of this year showed that our intentions to maintain an active dialogue with NATO and our progress towards NATO membership remain unchanged.

Now we are on the eve of the NATO Jubilee Summit in April. NATO's new Strategic Concept, which will be discussed at the summit, is aimed to strengthen the role of NATO in the world. We are sure that the policy of enlargement — the so-called "open-door policy" — is one of the key elements of NATO's success today and in the years to come. And we are confident that Ukraine's membership in the alliance will contribute to further stability in the region as well as in the world as a whole.

Our path towards NATO membership is a challenging one, but we are deeply inspired to walk it until reaching our goal, shoulder to shoulder with our NATO partners.

Canada has been a strong supporter of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. This could be seen in a number of statements from senior government officials, in particular Prime Minister Stephen Harper's statement during the NATO Bucharest Summit in April 2008, as well as in Canada's letter to support Ukraine's accession to MAP.

Ukraine highly appreciates this support and the support of all NATO member-states who share a view that further enlargement of the alliance with Ukrainian membership will only strengthen the geopolitical weight of the organization and help it address common issues for the mutual benefit of the Euro-Atlantic community.

We have already done a lot on our way. We are ready for further persistent work. And I am sure that in the result we will achieve our goal — membership in NATO.

Ihor Ostash is Ukraine's ambassador to Canada.

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PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

ATTAINABLE SINGLES AFFORDABLE HOUSING "AT THE CROSSROADS"

MP Peter Goldring held a meeting in Ottawa of Parliamentarians to examine the proposed Mayfair Village attainable housing project.

"Homeless counts have grown, mostly because 90% of all singles private sector housing has been torn down, and not allowed to be replaced by city planners, let alone increased. Most single people need independent living affordable housing, not social welfare sheltering. We can do much better for less cost for those many in great need," Mr. Goldring says.

Randy Ferguson of developer ProCura showed his private sector plan to create 700 units of attainable affordable (10% less than market average rents) singles and couples housing – bachelor and one-bedroom apartments. ProCura proposes to build and operate attainable housing for less than half the cost of the social non-profit providers, but have been stalled on funding applications by provincial and municipal shelter-centric funders.

"We are at the crossroads," Mr. Goldring states. "We must stop the wasteful plans of creating more and more small, inefficient, non-profit social transitional shelter projects. We can do much more with the private sector at half the cost."

The United States has modeled how to deal with the confusion of social industry vested interest exaggerations of the homelessness issue. They created a national understanding of the issue, defined it as best possible, decided how to most effectively deal with it, and implemented that plan. It is my suggestion that Canada form a comparable agency to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to begin the process nationally. Such a new agency could really help bring about an end to homelessness confusion that sadly serves to inhibit efforts to help those truly in need.

Now, with encouragement from colleagues, Mr. Goldring will approach the provincial and municipal governments to see what is necessary to make singles housing projects such as this a reality.

What do you think?

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Кияни запустили в космос речі Черновецького

Євген Солонина, *Радіо Свобода*

26 березня близько двох тисяч киян живим ланцюгом перекрили автомобільний рух на Хрещатику. Так вони висловили свій протест проти дій київської міської влади та особисто мера Леоніда Черновецького. Учасники акції протесту вимагали від нього переглянути низку рішень стосовно роботи медичної галузі, навчальних закладів, комунального майна, малих архітектурних форм та податків до міського бюджету. У результаті пленарне засідання третьої сесії Київради було заблоковане.

Зранку Хрещатик та кілька сусідніх вулиць центру Києва стали жовтими. Вздовж них вишикувалися понад 800 мікроавтобусів, які не вийшли на маршрути: кияни добиралися до станцій метро пішки. Так автоперевізники висловили свій протест проти дій мера Києва Леоніда Черновецького.

«Вони нічого не розуміють у транспортному бізнесі, тільки грошей хочуть від перевізників. Дійшло до того, що на свій розсуд ділять маршрути у Києві, за принципом «хто більше дасть». Я хочу давати робочі місця людям, працювати у рідній Україні, бо я українка! Але мої потреби влада ігнорує», – говорить директор приватного автопідприємства Тетяна Прокопець.

Антимерський протест також підтримали медики, студенти Академії муніципального управління, дрібні підприємці і навіть ветерани-чорнобильці. У кожного на те своя причина.

«Я виступив проти Черновецького, бо він намагається прибрати до рук малі архітектурні форми. От я, наприклад, рік тому подав документи на оформлення свого кіоску, і досі не отримав права власності на нього. Не прислухається до нас влада – будемо боротися всіма методами, і тюрма нас не лякає», – наголосив приватний підприємець Олег Слюсаренко.

Члени профспілок, підприємці, прихильники БЮТ, Блоку Литвина, Соціалістичної партії, Блоку Катеринчука, студенти протестують у Києві проти діяльності мера Леоніда Черновецького

А Людмила, студентка третього курсу, вийшла на Хрещатик захищати права свого навчального закладу. «Академію управління персоналом хочуть закрити, підвищивши орендну плату за приміщення. Академія не має надприбутків, навіть теоретично не зможе стільки платити», – каже вона.

«Чорнобильцям київська влада ні копійки не платить на ліки! Я у 1986 вивозив людей із зони аварії, але досі стою у черзі на квартиру», – обурюється ліквідатор аварії на ЧАЕС Євген Явченко.

Спочатку люди перекрили весь Хрещатик, але кількасот працівників міліції відтіснили їх із проїжджої частини. При цьому кілька осіб побилися з правоохоронцями.

Мітингувальники влаштували під Київрадою цілу виставу, в якій мера Черновецького зіграв студент у скафандрі. Апогеєм шоу став символічний запуск у космос прив'язаної до повітряних кульок сумки з написом «Особисті речі Черновецького».

Київрада мала розглянути низку проектів рішень, які на думку мітингувальників, призвели б до подальшого обмеження прав підприємців та вилучення приміщень в Академії муніципального управління. Депутати від блоків Кличка, Тимошенко та Литвина підтримали вимоги учасників акції і заблокували роботу Київради. Врешті її секретар Олесь Довгий змушений був закрити засідання.

«На жаль, у нашу сесійну залу, яка останнім часом демонструвала господарський підхід до ухвалення рішень, повертається політика. Я не хотів би давати якихось окремих оцінок. Шановні депутати, я дякую за витрачений вами час. Побачимося на наступному засіданні...», – сказав Олесь Довгий.

В обід учасники акції протесту розійшлися. Але це лише початок боротьби, вважає один із організаторів акції, голова Ради підприємців Дарницького району Києва Денис Бекрешов.

«Київська міська влада в особі Леоніда Черновецького намагається протягнути через Київраду рішення, які остаточно знищать малий бізнес. На ті рішення, які вже ухвалені, є протести прокуратури. Але далеко не всі протести винесені на сесію. Нам відомо, що на заміну скасованим рішенням команда Черновецького підготувала такі самі, з несуттєвими змінами. Така юридична гра може тривати безкінечно», – зауважив Денис Бекрешов.

Він запевняє, що акції протесту триватимуть доти, доки київська влада не перестане ставити палиці у колеса малому бізнесу. Бо, за його словами, у підприємців столиці немає виходу: або вони зникнуть, або зроблять так, щоб зникла нинішня київська влада.

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Kenney unaware of any March deadline for UCAMA project

Says Ottawa still working to get on the same page with the province

(UkrNews)—Federal Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenny says he is not aware of any March 31 deadline the Government of Alberta made regarding an additional $4 million for the new building of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA).

When asked about this during a telephone interview with Ukrainian News Editor Marco Levytsky, March 27, Kenney said he spoke with said Lindsay Blackett, Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit earlier that week and Blackett didn't say anything about a deadline.

"We are working with the province. We have been making progress on this file. My understanding is that the province had expressed certain reservations, so this is something that we will try to iron out," he added.

Levytsky noted that on Jan. 19 Blackett sent a letter to Michelle Tracy, president of UCAMA in which he stated:

"An additional $4 million has been earmarked for you project through the Major Community Facilities Program (MCFP) provided your society can confirm the viability of your revised project by March 2009," he said.

Kenney replied he hadn't seen a copy of that letter and that UCAMA's initial application did not satisfy the requirements of the program so the federal government acted to help them in providing a more robust application

"My understanding, based on my conversations as early as this week is that we're still trying to get on the same page as the province," he said.

UCAMA's new building is estimated to cost $24.1 million for which the provincial government has previously pledged $3 million, with the City of Edmonton promising $3 million of its own.

Major private contributions include $750,000 from the Chwyl Family, $200,000 from the Koziak Family Foundation, $100,000 from Servus Credit Union and $100,000 worth of his prints for sale from artist Peter Shostak.

UCAMA has applied for an $8 million grant to the Building Canada program. On Dec. 6, 2008, Kenney told the audience at a Ukrainian Canadian Congress banquet held in Edmonton: "We will have good news in respect to that project in the very near future."

In his Jan. 19 letter, Blackett added:

"The Government of Alberta is currently working with the Federal Government regarding the Building Canada Fund. These negotiations are ongoing to ensure the best interests of Alberta taxpayers are reflected in the agreements. I suggest you keep in touch with your contacts in the Federal Government regarding your funding request, and keep MCFP administration informed of any developments in this regard,"

Wrzesnewskyj challenges Kenney to debate Kyiv Embassy issue

(UkrNews)—Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre) has challenged Citizenship Immigration and Multiculturalism Minster Jason Kenney to a public debate before a Ukrainian community audience over the issue of staff cuts at the Ukrainian Embassy in Kyiv.

Wrzesnewskyj issued the challenge in an April 2 press release put out three days after he rose in the House of Commons in a follow up to his question of March 4, Kenney about the cuts.

In a March 5 press release entitled "Wrzesnewskyj misleads Ukrainian Canadians about immigration from Ukraine" and under the heading "The facts," the minister stated:

"Since mid-2006, there have been no reductions in staffing in the visa section of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine."

In the House May 30, Wrzesnewskyj noted that Inna Tsarkova, a Canadian Embassy Program Officer, gave an interview to the Kyiv Post on October 26, 2006 stating the following:

'In the immigration section of the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, this review and adjustment resulted in the elimination of one immigration officer and two clerical/support positions — a registry supervisor and a cashier'

This was an approximate one-third reduction of staff in the immigration section.

Kenney's Parliamentary Secretary Rick Dykstra responded that:

"Contrary to the hon. Member's claims, there have been no reductions in staffing in the visa section of the Canadian embassy in Ukraine, which has been delivering all permanent and temporary resident services since 2006. All aspects of the hon. Member's questions are full of factual errors."

The full transcript of the Wrzesnewskyj-Dykstra exchange on March 30 can be read on page 15 of this issue

In his April 2 press release Wrzesnewskyj stated:

"Such claims undermine the honour and dignity of the House of Commons. Personal attacks on a colleague who correctly points out the facts in this case, which are that the Conservative government cut staffing levels at the Immigration Section of the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, contributes to Canadians' poor opinion of Members of Parliament and the work they do. The Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary should apologize to the Ukrainian Canadian community for continuing their false and misleading public pronouncements whether in the House of Commons or through press releases issued by the Minister."

To clear the record, I challenge Minister Kenney to a public debate on this issue before the Ukrainian Canadian community," concluded Wrzesnewskyj.

Also that day, Wrzesnewskyj released a response from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to a question he had formally presented through the Library of Parliament.

The question was:

"How many people were working in the Immigration Section (as immigration officers or else) of the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv in Ukraine in 2005 and 2006"

The response stated:

"There was a total of 14 staff working in the Visa section in Kyiv at the beginning of 2005 and 2006. Of this number, 3 were Canada-based visa officers, 2 were locally-engaged officers, and 9 were locally-engaged support staff.

"In the summer of 2006, one Canada-based visa officer position and two locally engaged staff positions were redeployed to other missions leaving, a total of 11 staff working in the Visa section in Kyiv. Of this number, 2 were Canada-based visa officers, 2 were locally-engaged officers, and 7 were locally-engaged support staff.

"In the summer of 2008, one Canada-based anti-fraud officer position was added to the mission, bringing the total staff working in the Visa section to 12."

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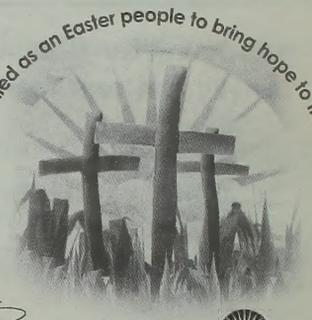

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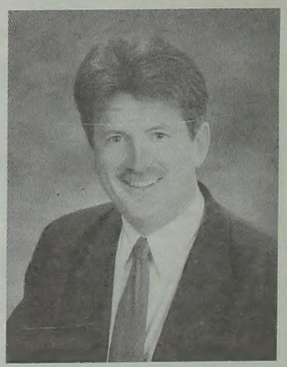
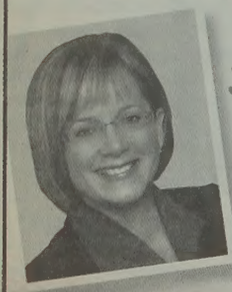


"Happy Easter to all members of our Ukrainian community." Christ is Risen!

Бажаю щасливих Великодніх Свят всім членам нашої української громади. Христос Воскрес!

Genia Leskiw, MLA
Bonnyville - Cold Lake *Tel.: 1.780.826.5658*

Happy Easter Blessings to you and your family!



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Happy Easter!

Христос Воскрес!

Бажаємо Вам щасливих Великодніх Свят.

EU-Ukraine pipeline agreement piques Moscow

By Bruce Pannier

(RFE/RL)—The European Union's March 23 announcement that it will finance the modernization of Ukraine's gas pipeline system has sparked fresh tensions with Russia, whose state-run gas behemoth now looks like the odd man out as EU companies get set to propel the project forward.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was among the first Russian officials to respond to the news of the EU-Ukraine agreement. His reaction left little room for ambiguity.

"If Russia's interests are going to be ignored, we will be compelled to begin reviewing the principles of our relations with our partners," Putin said.

If Russia's sentiments needed clarification, the following day Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev announced that a planned meeting the following week between Putin and Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko had been postponed indefinitely. The meeting was to discuss cash-strapped Kyiv's request for a $5 billion loan from Russia.

Putin's warning suggests that relations between Russia and the EU and Ukraine, at least concerning gas supplies, may once again be entering rough waters. Tensions calmed only recently after a dispute this winter over Ukrainian debts to Moscow and gas and transit prices led to temporary cuts in Russian gas supplies to the EU.

Europe gets about 40 percent of its imported gas from Russia, and much of that comes via Ukraine.

Kyiv's pipeline system is in desperate need of modernization, and for years Gazprom has assumed it would do that work and become at least a part-owner. But Kyiv has been clear about not wanting to hand over any part of its pipeline system to any Russian company.

On March 23, the EU and Ukraine announced that the EU would provide 2.5 billion euros to upgrade Ukraine's 13,500 kilometers of natural-gas pipelines. While the deal did not explicitly say it, analysts appear convinced that EU companies are likely to carry out that work. The deal also raised speculation that EU firms may become operators of Kyiv's pipeline system.

Adding to the fresh tensions is the EU's Eastern Partnership program, officially unveiled the previous week, which aims to improve relations with ex-Soviet republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and similarly does not involve Russia directly.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, President Viktor Yushchenko, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (left to right) got too chummy for Moscow's liking in Brussels on March 24

Russian criticism of the EU-Ukraine deal has focused on Moscow's involvement in the project, given that the pipelines carry Russian gas.

Politics is clearly part of Russia's calculation, but economics is also in the equation. Gazprom this year will pay Ukraine some $2.3 billion euros in transit fees ($1.70 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers). That pricing structure was part of a deal Russia and Ukraine reached in January to help end their recent gas dispute. Now it's at risk.

Russian Internet newspaper gazeta.ru reported on March 24 that if Ukraine's pipeline system comes under the ownership of EU companies, the transit fee will rise to the average European fee — $3 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers. According to gazeta.ru, "then [Gazprom] would need to pay some $3.9 billion per year" in transit fees.

The same report cited Gazprom estimates that the modernization of Ukraine's pipeline network would cost some $16 billion — far more than what Ukraine is due to receive from the EU and European financial institutions.

When she signed the deal with the EU in Brussels, Prime Minister Tymoshenko indicated that Ukraine would retain ownership of its pipeline system.

"Our joint declaration states clearly that in accordance with Ukrainian law, Ukraine's gas transit system is and will remain state property," Tymoshenko said.

Some in the EU, and of course in Russia, believe that is not the case — and that the EU will want some control over the Ukrainian system to ensure Russian gas reaches its destination in the EU.

Gazeta.ru suggested that the EU-Ukraine agreement "implies a transfer of control over the export part of the Ukrainian pipeline system to a new operator, most likely one of the big European companies."

There is also speculation that Russia's negative reaction to the EU-Ukraine deal is also intended to hinder improving ties between the EU and Ukraine.

At the same time, Russia is signaling interest in improving ties with the EU enough to realize two alternative gas pipeline projects that avoid Ukrainian territory — Nord Stream under the Baltic Sea and South Stream under the Black Sea.

Nord Stream is due to start operations in 2011 and has EU support, particularly from Germany. When completed, Nord Stream will be capable of exporting about half the amount of Russian gas that now transits Ukraine.

The EU, while seemingly securing a victory in the Ukrainian pipeline battle, is now set to wade deeper into the treacherous waters of Ukrainian politics.

Tymoshenko and President Viktor Yushchenko were both at the signing ceremony in Brussels, but each has worked to marginalize the other in recent months.

Trying to retain some distance from that domestic power struggle is likely to prove challenging to the EU and any EU-based firms that take on the task of upgrading, and possibly managing, Ukraine's export pipeline system.

Ukrainian activists protest Belarusian repression

(RFE/RL)—Activists in Kyiv picketed the Belarusian Embassy on March 25 to protest Minsk's repressive political and religious policies, RFE/R's Belarusian and Ukrainian services report.

Parishioners from the New Life evangelical church and activists from the Youth Platform movement said they were expressing solidarity with Christians in Belarus who, they said, face pressure from the Belarusian government.

The protesters recalled that Pastor Yaraslav Lukasik and Bishop Venyamin Brukh had been deported from Belarus recently and that the New Life parish in Minsk is being persecuted.

The activists signed a petition demanding an end to pressure on Christian churches and on the independent mass media in Belarus, as well as a halt to oppressive measures against members of the country's political opposition. The petition also demands that all political prisoners be released.

The protesters tried to hand the petition in person to a representative of the Belarusian Embassy, but an official told them that the petition should be sent via regular mail instead.

"Happy Easter to all members of our Ukrainian community."
Christ is Risen!

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Христос Воскрес!

Honorable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Deputy Government House Leader

MLA Edmonton Mill Creek
8207 Argyll Road, Edmonton, Alberta
780-466-3737

Saskatchewan-Ukraine advisory committee gets new members

(UkrNews)—Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ken Krawetz and Provincial Secretary Wayne Elhard announced the appointment of 10 Saskatchewan representatives to the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee March 26.

"Through this committee, we will be able to further explore and promote relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine," Krawetz said.

"The work that will be done by this committee will allow us to strengthen business opportunities and cultural ties that promote understanding and awareness in both countries, as well as maintain and enhance the work around student exchanges in high school and at the post secondary levels."

The committee members are: Gerald Luciuk, Regina; Nadia Prokopchuk, Saskatoon; Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, Saskatoon; David Dutchak, Saskatoon; Gerald Seniuk, Regina; Mary-Anne Trischuk, Yorkton; Edward Lysyk, Regina; Alicia Klopoushak, Saskatoon; James Shevchuk, North Battleford and Fredrick D. Mantey, Regina.

"Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community has played a significant role in shaping our cultural heritage," Elhard said. "The knowledge and experience of the committee members will help us identify the best way to strengthen and expand our partnerships and strong ties with the people of Ukraine."

The community-based committee, originally created in 1993, will provide advice on government and private sector activities in Saskatchewan and Ukraine to strengthen the civil society of Ukraine. They will also monitor and make recommendations on the progress of the 1995 Saskatchewan-Ukraine Memorandum of Co-operation. The committee's term runs until Feb. 24, 2012.

Ukrainian pysanky workshop held at International House

(Kule Centre)—The Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore and International House at the University of Alberta sponsored their second workshop for students from around the world on March 18.

The workshop was arranged by Ukrainian Folklore Program graduate student and International House resident Huseyin Oylupinar.

Students from China, Iran, Turkey, India, Poland, Ukraine, Brazil and other countries enjoyed soft drinks, fruit, and cookies while they watched Slavko Novytsky's classic pysanka film.

After watching the film, Natalie Kononenko, Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography, talked about the tradition of pysanky and some of the technical aspects of pysanka writing.

The students then began work on their own eggs under the direction of Kononenko, Dr. Peter Holloway, and a group of volunteer assistants including Yanina Vihovska, Svitlana Kukharenko, Genia Boivin, and Greg Holloway

Beautiful eggs and happy students were the result. Most of the decorated eggs had traditional pysanka designs. Some students, however, chose innovative adaptations, adjusting their pysanky to incorporate designs and symbols from their home countries.

Students from around the world share in the joy of pysanky.

Edmonton's World FM awarded as Canada's best

(World FM)—Roman Brytan, Program Director for 101.7 World FM, has just returned from Canadian Music Week in Toronto, where the Canadian Music & Broadcasting Awards bestowed the honour of Multicultural Station of the Year on Edmonton's only ethnic radio broadcaster. World FM was chosen among a list of five prominent nominees from across the country.

This is the highest radio industry honour awarded in Canada. Winners are selected on the basis of several criteria, including: outstanding and continuing contribution to community service; promoting and building Canadian talent on radio; promoting, supporting and covering special events; and exceptional performance highlights for the preceding calendar year.

"I'm very proud of our entire World FM team," says Brytan. "We have been delivering a consistently engaging broadcast schedule in 20+ languages for almost 3 decades now. Many of our on-air hosts have been a part of World FM from day one, and it's gratifying to see their dedication and commitment rewarded."

101.7 World FM (CKER) has been a thriving part of Edmonton's radioscape for 28 years and serves many communities including: Chinese, South Asian, German, Ukrainian, Spanish, Italian, Filipino, Arabic, Dutch, Hungarian, Portuguese, Greek, Polish, Croatian, Serbian, Russian, Somali and Japanese.

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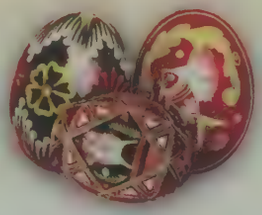

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Ksenia Maryniak, MA, C. Tran.
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PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Pryvit closes the first half.

Tributes pour in for Shumka's 50th anniversary

(UkrNews)—Tributes poured in as the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers celebrated their 50th anniversary with two sold-out performances at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, March 19 and 20.

"On behalf of all Albertans I want to extend a sincere thanks to all members of Shumka, to the past and present members, to the artistic directors, choreographers, costume designers, musicians and all other who were part of the Shumka family," said Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach at the opening of the March 19 show.

"You have worked very hard for five consecutive decades, worked hard to preserve our great Ukrainian heritage, through dance. You have performed for audiences throughout the world. For kings, queens, prime ministers and presidents. Even (in) the country of our ancestors — Ukraine. And you have proudly carried the banner of Edmonton, of Alberta and of Canada," added the premier, who was introduced by Alberta Aboriginal Relations Minister and Deputy House Leader Gene Zwozdesky, himself a former dancer, musical director and composer with Shumka.

Stelmach then passed the floor to Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Lindsay Blackett, who announced that on the occasion of Shumka's 50th Anniversary, the Province of Alberta has bestowed the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers with "resident status" at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. The Alberta Ballet and the Edmonton Opera are the other two resident companies of the Auditorium.

Accolades from world-renowned artists were featured in a video presentation during the second half of the performance

Prior to the performance Premier Stelmach along with his ministers, met with Shumka backstage.

The first half of the program opened with "Touchstones in Tradition", comprised of dance excerpts shaped the course of Shumka's history. This ranged from the earliest years, when the focus was on the need to preserve a culture threatened with extinction and Russification, to today's accomplished presence in the mainstream Canadian arts scene and the world stage context of Shumka's contemporary accomplishments in storyline dance theatre, This number also featured live guest performances by Edmonton's Dnipro Choir, and internationally acclaimed violin virtuoso, Vasyl Popadiuk.

This was followed by "The Eve of Kupalo — Mystery Masque" an illumination of the elements and celebrations marking the celebrated Ukrainian summer solstice ritual throughout time. This piece, choreographed by Dave Ganert, with an original score by Ukraine's Andriy Shoost intertwines live dance, video captures of ritual connected directly to nature, and the blending of projection with specially designed scenic elements.

The second half opened with "Pathways to Hopak" which explores the emotional "pathway" of life's twists and turns that brings us to this moment of celebration. Shumka's Canadian dance vocabulary grows from the traditions of our ancestral village dances and the joy of free form the Kolomyjka brings to our festive gatherings.

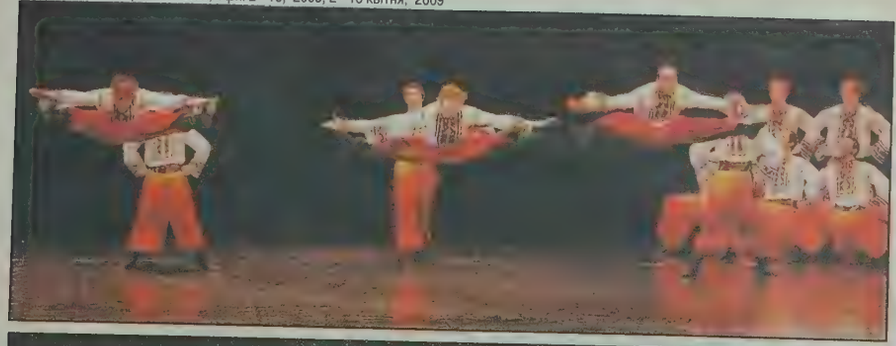
Popadiuk then provided an interval of his unique brand of violin artistry, best described as "Gypsy World Fusion" with classical , jazz, Latin and pop undertones. The selections included "Carpathian Hoedown", and "Somewhere in Bukovyna".

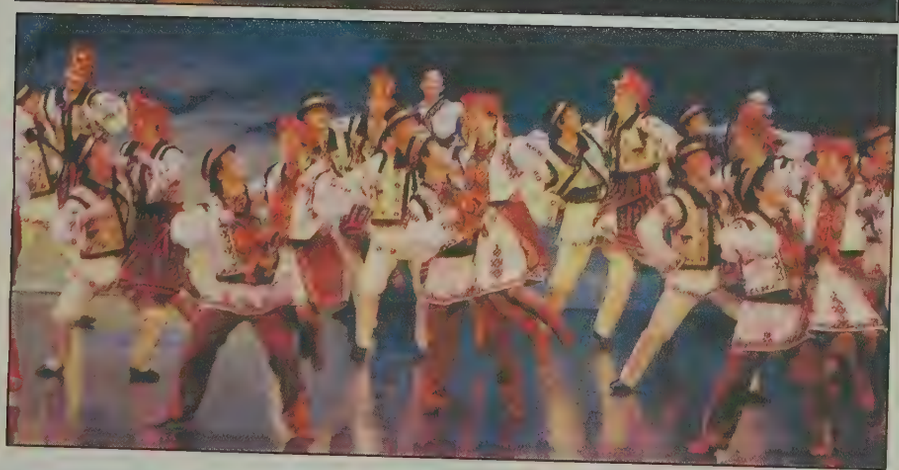
Next was "Carpathian Climes" a dynamic work whose intricate rhythms are infused with the spirit of the Carpathian peoples, this dance is one of intensity and energy, woven through music and movement. The concept came from Gordon Gordey, the choreography was again by Ganert and the music by Shoost.

At the invitation of Shumka, the evening's suite of performances brought two signature Nutcracker dances to the stage: Trepak performed by artists of Shumka, and the Act I Pas de Deux starring the Kyiv Ballet's Iullia Shumak and Dmitri Dovgoselets of The Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Choreography was by Viktor Lytvynov, music by Ukrainian-origin Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky; set and costumes design by Kyiv's Maria Levitska.

Following the video presentation, the performance closed with "Shumka's 50th Anniversary Hopak" which set out to discover, for both male and female dancers, a fresh expression of virtuosity in Ukrainian dance. It is based on an original symphonic score for the choreography, undertaken by Kyiv composer, Yuri Shevchenko.

Opposite Page: Counterclockwise from Bottom Right: (Unless otherwise noted — all photos by Marco Levytsky): Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker; Wreath Dance from Touchstones in Tradition; Triple Splits from Shumka's 50th Anniversary Hopak; Singer Roman Petriw confronts violinist Vasyl Popadiuk during Dnipro Choir's appearance in Touchstone in Tradition; Carpathian Climes: Cinderella Scene from Touchstones in Tradition.





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Зі Світлим Празником Христового Воскресення бажаємо українському народові в Україні та Діяспорі, Українським Церквам, громадським і політичним організаціям та всьому нашому членству, Веселих Великодних Свят.

Управа Конґресу Українців Канади
Едмонтонський Відділ

У Празі відкрили пам'ятник Шевченкові

Мар'яна Драч,
Радіо Свобода

Під час церемонії відкриття пам'ятника Тарасові Шевченку. 25 березня 2009 р.

25 березня в Празі з'явився пам'ятник Тарасові Шевченкові. Монумент відкрив Президент України Віктор Ющенко під час державного візиту до Чехії. Появі скульптури передували протести частини жителів міста, які не розуміли, який зв'язок має український поет із їхнім районом. Зрештою, скульптура Кобзаря з'явилася в іншій частині Праги, як дехто вважає, у кращому місці, неподалік від центру чеської столиці.

Двометрова бронзова скульптура Кобзаря височіє на площі Кінських у празькому районі Сміхов. На цьому ж майдані – Палац правосуддя Чехії і представництво ООН.

Відкриваючи монумент, Президент Віктор Ющенко заявив, що поява шевченківських знаків у світі - це небуденне явище, яке свідчить про світову шану до України.

Тарас Шевченко ніколи не був у Празі, але має тісний зв'язок з Чехією, наголосив український лідер.

«Коли в 1876 році Російська імперія заборонила українську мову і літературу, то саме в Празі вийшло перше і нецензуроване видання Шевченкового «Кобзаря». Коли Шевченко був заборонений в Україні, то його переклав видатний чеський поет, великий прихильник України Йожеф Гейчик», – заявив Віктор Ющенко.

Одну зі своїх найвідоміших поем Тарас Шевченко присвятив національному героєві Чехії – Янові Гусу.

Однак частина жителів Праги на початку року протестувала проти монументу українському поетові в себе на подвір'ї. Ми не сумніваємося у значенні Шевченка для українського народу, але не розуміємо, який стосунок він має до нашої площі, заявив один із підписантів петиції. Місцева влада їх послухала, адже спорудження почалося з порушення будівельних норм – бетон під постамент залили на кілька днів раніше, ніж був виданий дозвіл на це.

Після скандалу місцеві українці за підтримки українських дипломатів швидко зуміли знайти нове, гідне місце для скульптури на празькому Сміхові.

Голова району Прага-5 Мілан Янчик на відкритті монументу знайшов міжнародний аргумент, щоб пояснити це рішення: «Коли ми думали про те, де мав би бути цей пам'ятник, то перемогла думка, що саме тут, де є представництво ООН в Чехії, – а ми ставимося до ООН як до символу порозуміння між народами».

Водночас в очі кидається, те, що цей район Праги не проводив громадського обговорення пам'ятника Шевченкові, як це роблять зазвичай, а всі будівельні дозволи зібрали за лічені дні. Радіо Свобода звернулося до прес-служби Праги-5, але на момент публікації статті пояснень із цього приводу не отримало.

Президент Віктор Ющенко, зі свого боку, дякував за дозвіл на пам'ятник всьому чеському народу, виділивши при цьому мера Праги і президента Чехії.

Автором монументу є молодий український скульптор Микола Зноба (1974 року народження). Він розповів Радіо Свобода, що готував пам'ятник спеціально для Праги. Українська громада дискутувала, який варіант обрати і, зрештою, з перевагою в один голос перемогло зображення Шевченка молодшого віку, каже скульптор.

Не лише дехто з чехів, з й деякі українці запитують, чи варто ставити Шевченкові пам'ятники по всьому світу. Автору одного коментаря на нашому сайті це нагадує радянські часи, коли всюди ставили пам'ятники Леніну. Є і думка, що в Празі варто було вшановувати не Шевченка, а інших видатних діячів української культури, які жили в чеській столиці тривалий час.

«Я теж вважаю, що є багато постатей українців за кордоном і є дуже багато тем, які можна втілити в життя. Але так склалося історично, що Шевченко став символом України», – зазначає Микола Зноба.

Це вже друга його скульптура за кордоном. Попередні роботи він готував із батьком, відомим українським скульптором Валентином Знобою. Зокрема, їхній спільний пам'ятник – дочці Ярослава Мудрого, королеві Франції Анні – встановили неподалік від Парижа у 2005 році.

«Цю роботу я вже готував самостійно», – каже Микола Зноба. А допомагала йому дружина, архітектор пам'ятника Шевченкові в Празі, Вероніка Дірова.

Монумент Кобзаря замовила українська громада в Чехії.

Голова громадської організації «Українська ініціатива в Чеській Республіці» Віктор Райчинець розповів Радіо Свобода, що його оплатили двоє чеських бізнесменів та Міністерство закордонних справ України. Сам пам'ятник і його встановлення коштували 2 мільйони чеських крон, що в перерахунку становить 100 тисяч доларів.

Українська Канадська Фундація ім. Тараса Шевченка

Щиро Вітає Усіх Жертводавців і Прихильників з Великодними Святами

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Kyiv Embassy staffing debate continues

(Ed. Note: Reprinted below is the latest exchange over the issue of staffing at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv that took place in the House of Commons., March 30, 2009)

Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on March 4, I asked the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration why the Conservative government had cut staffing levels by one-third in the immigration section at the Kyiv Embassy in Ukraine in 2006. The minister, in typical fashion, did not answer the question. However, the following morning he put out a press release under the title, "MP Misleads Ukrainian Canadians About Immigration From Ukraine".

Further down, he writes the facts. I will quote the minister's press release. He says: "since mid-2006, there have been no reductions in staffing in the visa section of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine."

Unfortunately for the minister, a search of the Internet shows that the cuts did in fact occur under the Conservative government's watch in 2006. They were confirmed by Canadian embassy program officer, Inna Tsarkova, who stated in an October 26, 2006 interview in the Kyiv Post:

In the immigration section of the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, this review and adjustment resulted in the elimination of one immigration officer position and two clerical/support positions — a registry supervisor and a cashier. This was a one-third reduction of staff in the immigration section.

Under the title, "The Facts", in his press release, he goes on to state, "Under our Conservative government there has been an increase in emigration from Ukraine".

Once again, in a search on the Internet, on the minister's very own departmental website under "Statistics and Facts" is a table with the heading, "Permanent Residents From Ukraine By Year". It starts in 1998 and goes through to 2007. For the Liberal years, from 1998 to 2005, the average was 2,933. In 2006 and 2007, under the Conservatives and after the one-third cut that the minister denied in a press release having taken place, it was 2,025. That is a 44.8% decrease.

How could the minister have claimed that there were no cuts in staff and that there was an increase in immigration when the facts clearly demonstrate that the reverse is true?

Even worse, as one goes through the Citizenship and Immigration website, one finds the following. In Kyiv, what is the waiting time for 80% of cases to be finalized for skilled workers to immigrate to Canada? The worst in the world. The waiting time has gone up from 34 months under the Liberals to 77 months, six and a half years. The processing time for spouses is the worst in Europe. This has gone from 10 months to 14 months under the Conservatives. Let us do another reality check. The waiting time for dependent children went from eight months to thirteen months and parental reunification went from 17 months to 22 months.

The minister's response in the House to my question and the subsequent press release should not only be taken with a great deal of skepticism, it was inaccurate in its wording. What the minister claims as fact was clearly false. The minister should spend less time attacking his parliamentary colleagues and expend his time and resources fixing the situation in the embassy in Kyiv.

Mr. Rick Dykstra (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to push back on the member for Etobicoke Centre. I would like to thank him for giving me the opportunity to respond, but at the same time his last sentence speaks volumes to what I think he should consider doing himself, which is to spend a lot more time in the House and in Ottawa working positively in a very focused fashion on behalf of his constituents rather than spending this time criticizing each other.

However, I am pleased to rise to speak to the question of the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre regarding emigration from Ukraine. My hon. colleague is completely and totally mistaken in his statements about staffing at the Canadian embassy and the impact on emigration from that region, so I am glad to have this opportunity to enlighten him.

Contrary to the hon. member's claims, there have been no reductions in staffing in the visa section of the Canadian embassy in Ukraine, which has been delivering all permanent and temporary resident services since 2006.

All aspects of the hon. member's questions are full of factual errors. For instance, I refute the claim that as a result of the cut in "consular staffing levels" there has been a one-third decline in emigration from Ukraine to Canada.

On the contrary, I can assure the hon. member and the House that the total number of immigration visas issued by our office in Kyiv rose from 1,399 in 2004 to 1,527 in 2008. We are planning to issue a higher number of visas this year. Perhaps the member should take a few minutes before he officially speaks about an issue relating to Ukraine to speak to the government first to ensure that his facts are correct.

Furthermore, I deny in the strongest terms his statement that the Canadian embassy in Kyiv has the fourth slowest processing time for visitor visas in the world. I am very proud to point out that in 2008 alone, 85% of applications made in Kyiv for temporary resident visas were processed within two days of the time the application was made. This turnaround time is in fact well above the worldwide average. Our visa processing office in Kyiv has maintained these processing times despite the increasing numbers of applicants from this area.

Our government has prioritized our relationship with our friends in Ukraine. Our government strongly supports the inclusion of Ukraine in NATO. Under a Conservative government, Canada was the first western nation to recognize a free Ukraine after the fall of Soviet tyranny.

We have also worked productively with the Ukrainian community in Canada. We are providing funding under the community historical recognition program to commemorate past mistreatment of Ukrainian Canadians during World War I. We were also the first Canadian government to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide. I would like to congratulate my colleague, the member for Selkirk-Interlake, for his work on this particular issue.

I also want to correct a misunderstanding on the part of my hon. colleague. If there were cuts to consular staffing anywhere in the world, these would have no bearing on any aspect of immigration, as consular staff do not deal with immigration issues.

My hon. colleague is mistaken in almost every respect. There have been no cuts to the number of visa officers in Kyiv over two years. There has been no drop in the number of immigration visas issued by our visa office in Kyiv and processing time for temporary resident visas in this office is in fact well above the worldwide average.

I am very glad to have been able to set the hon. member straight on these important points.

Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj: Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. It is clear on searching the websites that what I have stated in fact is correct. There have been cuts. They were referenced by staff at the embassy. The hon. member spoke of visitor visas. I have been talking about immigration and the time that it takes for immigration.

Ukrainians began arriving in Canada in the 1890s. They transformed the west into the golden wheat fields of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They not only helped build this country, but they also built institutions such as schools and churches throughout our great country.

The minister often talks about the integration of new Canadians. This is a community that can seamlessly integrate new immigrants. The government should put resources into the immigration section so that we can get on with the job.

Mr. Rick Dykstra: Mr. Speaker, there is one thing the member for Etobicoke Centre and I will agree on, and that is the commitment and contributions Ukrainians have made to this country once they have arrived here.

However, let me say that it is under this government, and only this government, that we have moved forward in a positive partnership with Ukrainian Canadians. This government takes second place to no previous government in terms of the commitment made to Ukrainians across this country. The member spoke often while in government about the commitment that Ukrainians deserve in this country. The member opposite knows full well that it is this government that has delivered on every single one of those issues. We do not have to apologize for anything when it comes to our love for and our commitment to Ukrainians in this country.

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ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!
В той День Воскресіння нашого Господа й Збавителя, Ісуса Христа, від імені Українського Доброзичливого Дяківського Товариства сердечно вітаємо Його Високопреосвященство Митрополита ІВАНА, Архиєпископа Української Православної Церкви в Канаді, Його Високопреосвященство Єпископа АНДРІЯ, Асистента Метрополита та Центральної Єпархії, Його Високопреосвященство Архиєпископа ЮРІЯ, Єпископа Торонта й Східної Єпархії, Його Преосвященство Єпископа ІЛАРІОНА, Єпископа Едмонтону й Західної Єпархії, Протоієрея отця Григорія Мієлніка, Голову та Канцлера Української Православної Церкви в Канаді, всіх членів Консисторії, разом зі священиками і вірними нашої Святої Української Православної Церкви в Канаді, на рідній землі в Україні, та в діяспорі.

Митро Скорейко, Голова
Бренда Гавриш-Ґріффітс, Секретар
Протоієрей о. Григорій Подтепа, Капелян

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
On this the Resurrection Day of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we extend Easter greetings on behalf of the Alberta Benevolent Cantor Association to His Eminence Metropolitan JOHN, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, His Eminence Bishop ANDRIY, Assistant to the Metropolitan and the Central Eparchy, His Eminence Archbishop YURIJ, Bishop of Toronto and Eastern Eparchy, His Grace Bishop ILARION, Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, The Very Rev. Archpriest Father Gregory Mielnik, Presidium Chair and Chancellor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, all Consistory Members, along with all the Priests and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, or native homeland of Ukraine and the diaspora.

Mack Skoreyko, President
Brenda Hawrysh-Griffiths, Secretary
Very Rev. Archpriest Father Georg Podtepa, Chaplain

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council extends our warmest wishes for a Happy Easter. Christ is Risen!

Христос Воскрес!

Конґрес Українців Канади – Провінційна Рада Альберти вітає Вас з нагоди Воскресіння Христового. Христос Воскрес!

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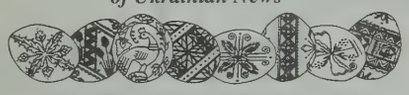
We extend greetings on the Easter Day to the all Ukrainian community especially for our readers!
CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Staff & Administration of Ukrainian News



ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!
Радісних Свят Христового Воскресення та щастя й здоров'я українському суспільству а передовсім нашим читачам
бажають працівники редакції «Українських Вісті»

Брюссельська декларація – чи не останній шанс для незалежності України – чеський дипломат

Марія Щур, *Радіо Свобода*

Декларація про модернізацію української газотранспортної системи дає Україні шанс очистити від корупції найважливіший сектор економіки і оздоровити політику, вважає чеський дипломат, який від імені Євросоюзу вів переговори під час газового конфлікту між Україною і Росією. Якщо українське керівництво не скористається цим шансом, воно ризикує втратити країну, зазначає Вацлав Бартушка, з яким спілкувалося Радіо Свобода.

Як говорить чеський посол з особливих доручень Вацлав Бартушка, пропозиція Євросоюзу надати Україні допомогу в модернізації українських газогонів, може стати чи не найбільшим проектом із «європеїзації» країни. Під цим дипломат розуміє очищення від корупції енергетичного сектора та встановлення чітких правил гри, що відповідатимуть інтересам країни, а не групи осіб, які мають доступ до державних ресурсів.

Проте, Вацлав Бартушка усвідомлює, що для української влади зробити це буде складно, бо компанія «Нафтогаз» є надто зручним об'єктом для корупції на вищому державному рівні.

«Нафтогаз» – це невідома для світу компанія, яку прийнято називати «чорною скринькою». Не хочу ображати нічиї почуття, – каже Вацлав Бартушка, – але «Нафтогаз» надто багато «доять» в Україні. Це призвело до того, що компанія є практично банкрутом. Це загадка: як можна бути банкрутом, транспортуючи 80% російського газу? А до того ще транспортуючи нафту? Це мала б бути найприбутковіша компанія в Україні! Відповідь проста – забагато людей наживаються на цій компанії. Тому питання прозорості є дуже важливе. Але я говорю своїм українським друзям прямо: ви крадете занадто багато і занадто швидко. Ви розкрадаєте власну країну. Якщо далі піде таким темпом, то ви втратите і Крим, і незалежність. Це те, що зараз стоїть на кону».

На думку чеського дипломата, якого серйозність проблеми змушує вживати недипломатичні вирази, українське керівництво не зможе витримати натиску Росії, якщо не усвідомить що інтереси країни мають стояти на першому місці.

«Ви бачите набагато сильнішу і набагато цілеспрямованішу Росію, яка поставила перед собою певну мету. А з іншого боку Україну, де Президент і Прем'єр ведуть боротьбу, і немає послідовної політики. Спостерігати за цим – одне розчарування. Але те, що українці погодилися запровадити більшу прозорість, вселяє надію. Бо лише у цьому випадку в Україну зможуть надійти інвестиції», – наголосив Вацлав Бартушка.

За його словами, тепер все залежить від України, від якої чекають здійснення обіцянок, першою і найголовнішою з яких є відокремлення компанії, що транспортує газ, «Укртрансгазу» від «Нафтогазу» і перетворення її у прозору, відповідальну компанію.

«Європа готова дотримуватися своєї обіцянки, попри те, що чеський уряд пішов у відставку. Ми все одно головуватиме у ЄС до кінця червня. Я можу пообіцяти, що ми будемо вірні нашому слову», – зазначив чеський посол з особливих доручень Вацлав Бартушка.

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В Івано-Франківську урочисто презентували книги «Літопис УПА»

(Радіо Свобода)—Захід пройшов у приміщенні Народного дому Івано-Франківської обласної «Просвіти» імені Тараса Шевченка, 29 березня.

Розпочалася презентація із кліпу про Українську повстанську армію. Заступник голови всеукраїнського об'єднання «Свобода» Олександр Сич на презентації наголосив, що «Літопис УПА» покликаний активізувати українську молодь до захисту українства. За його словами, найбільшою небезпекою для сучасної незалежної України є «зневіра і песимізм людей». Олександр Сич наголосив, що видавництво «Літопис УПА» вже десятки років «видає історію УПА».

У свою чергу голова Братства ОУН-УПА Карпатського краю Фотій Володимирський повідомив, що нині на Прикарпатті залишилося всього 900 ветеранів-учасників УПА.

«Ми не хочемо від держави жодних пільг, – наголосив Фотій Володимирський. – Ми проживемо за мізерну пенсію. Але ми домагаємось справедливості – визнання нас борцями за незалежність у Другій світовій війні. Мені 85 років, і я хочу померти в Україні, за яку гинули наші побратими».

На презентації виступив з історичною доповіддю науковець зі Львова Микола Посівнич. Він зазначив, що «Літопис УПА» – це найповніша збірка фактів про героїчну боротьбу ОУН-УПА.

«Літопис УПА» – серійне книжкове видання. Його завдання – опублікувати, з дотриманням джерельної точності, документи і матеріали з історії УПА. Кожен том, або група томів Літопису присвячені окремим темам і мають назву. Зокрема, 45-й том Літопису присвячений 100-річчю від дня народження командира УПА Романа Шухевича.

З Великим Днем Світлого Христового Воскресіння!

щиро вітаю голову Помісної Української Греко-Католицької церкви, Блаженнішого Любомира, Високопреосвященного Митрополита Лаврентія, Синод Української Греко-Католицької Церкви, усе духовенство, чернецтво, боголюбних мирян, приводи і членство українських громадських організацій та установ, та ввесь український нарід.

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

Він своєю смертю переміг смерть, добром подолав зло, світлістю – темряву!

З нагоди цього Празника Воскресіння Христового, бажаємо вам усім, щоб Воскреслий Христос дарував вам свої щедрі ласки для освячення ваших душ, для доброго здоров'я, щоб надалі сповняти свої життєві змагання, та щоб ви радісно святкували у ваших парафіях, спільнотах і родинах.

Преосвященний Давид Мотюк
Єпарх Едмонтонський
та
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з її складовими організаціями

Ольга Глусь, голова Централі
Іван Бойко, голова Братства УКК
Варвара Глусь, голова ЛУКЖК
д-р Богдан Кузик, голова Лицарів Колумба
Наміша Глусь, голова УКЮК

On the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

I sincerely greet His Beatitude Lubomyr, Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, His Grace Metropolitan Archbishop Lawrence Huculak, Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, all the clergy, the monks, the God-loving faithful, the Presidents and Members of the Ukrainian Social Organizations and Institutions and all Ukrainian People.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

He trampled death by death, overcame evil with goodness, and darkness with light!

On this occasion of the Feast of the Christ's Resurrection, we wish that Christ bestow upon all of you His choicest graces to sanctify your souls, good health to continue your life's endeavours, and profound happiness as you celebrate in your parishes, communities and families.

Most Reverend David Motiuk, Bishop
The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
and
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton Centralia
along with their organizations

Olga Hlus, Centralia President
John Boyko, UCBC President
Barbara Hlus, UCWLC President
Dr. Bohdan Kuzyk, K of C President
Namisha Hlus, UCYC President

На Буковині обвалився міст, збудований після повені минулого року

(Радіо Свобода)—У селі Розтоки Путильського району Чернівецької області в ніч на 31 березня під вагою транспорту надмірної ваги обвалився новий міст через річку Черемош, збудований після минулорічної липневої повені.

Жителі гірського Путильського району знову змушені користуватися об'їзною дорогою через сусідню Івано-Франківську область.

Як повідомили у прес-службі Служби автомобільних доріг Чернівецької області, новий міст через Черемош у селі Розтоки зводило ЗАТ «Трансмост». Його вантажопідйомність 30 тонн, однак, попри це, робітники «Трансмосту» намагалися транспортувати по ньому бурильну установку вагою до 100 тонн.

Погодження на транспортування мостом цього важкого обладнання представники ЗАТ не мали.

Під масою установки, що втричі перевищує допустимі норми, прогонова будова мосту просіла. Бурильна установка разом із прогоновою будовою мосту просіла у річку.

Winnipeg Free Press 2009 recipient of Syrnick Journalism Award

(UCFTS)—March 9 the Editorial Board of The Winnipeg Free Press was named recipient of the John Syrnick Award for Journalism. For the third time, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko awarded its Syrnick Journalism award. According to Shevchenko Foundation President Andrij Hladyshevsky, Q.C., "The Winnipeg Free Press was chosen for best sustained coverage in 2008 of the 1932-33 Holodomor, a famine/genocide of historical significance to the Free World and the Ukrainian Canadian community."

The Syrnick 2009 National Selection Committee included pre-eminent Canadian academics and community leaders from the Ukrainian Canadian community. Dr. Christine Turkewych, Chair of the selection committee, commented, "The Editorial Board of The Winnipeg Free Press facilitated consistent coverage by their staff writers and independent journalists. The year 2008 was full of events across Canada to commemorate Holodomor as well as to explore the issues and controversy surrounding it. The Winnipeg Free Press provided coverage throughout the year, almost monthly."

During the reception, selection committee members were acknowledged and thanked for their generosity in sharing their expertise and for their dedication to serving Ukrainian Canadian interests. Members of the Syrnick 2009 National Selection Committee were (from west to east): Alberta - Prof. Zenon Kohut, Director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, Daria Luciw, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta and Halya Wilson, Southern Representative of Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts; Saskatchewan - Prof. Bohdan Kordan, Professor & Chair in Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan; Manitoba - Bohdan Halkewycz, Shevchenko Foundation Board Member; Ontario - Roman Senkus, Director, CIUS Publications Program at University of Toronto, Christine Isajiw, Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre, Irka Mycak, Chair of UCC National Holodomor Committee, Oksana Zakydalsky, Writer and Executive Member of Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization, Prof. Dominique Arel, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, Irena Bell, Producer & Host, Ukrainian Radio Program, CHIN Ottawa and Dr. Oleh Waler, St. George's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council, St. Catharines; and from Quebec - Rt. Rev. Dr. Ihor G. Kutash, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada – Montreal Branch.

PHOTO — ANDREW SIKORSKI

Left to Right: Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C.; Margo Goodhand, editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, and Leo Ledohowski.

The Winnipeg Free Press accepted the Syrnick Journalism award at a reception on March 9, at Canad Inns Garden City in Winnipeg. Over 150 invited guests included Manitoba dignitaries, Holodomor survivors, leaders of the Ukrainian-Canadian and business communities, and the media. Shevchenko Foundation Executive Director Lesia Szwaluk emceed the programme while Leo Ledohowski, President of Canad Inns and Andrij Hladyshevsky, Q.C., Foundation President, presented the award to Free Press Editor Margo Goodhand.

The award is named in honour of John Syrnick, who served as editor of Ukrainian Voice from 1947 to 1970. Under Syrnick's editorial stewardship, Ukrainian Voice became a leading voice for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Canadians who sought to define and promote the interests of their community within a multicultural Canada.

In 2005, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko launched the Syrnick Journalism Award to demonstrate to Canadian media that the Ukrainian Canadian community is a watchful readership/audience, and to encourage Canadian media to report continually on topics of interest to the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The first Syrnick recipient was journalist Mark MacKinnon, from The Globe and Mail, for providing consistent and thorough coverage of Ukraine's history leading to the Orange Revolution during the critical period from the second election to the final results of the third election in December 2004. In 2007, Victor Malarek, Senior Reporter at CTV's W-FIVE, was named second recipient for his continual dedication to substantive research and reporting on issues of importance and relevance to the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Kyiv Chamber Choir to tour Canada

(Platinum Concerts)—Platinum Concerts International presents the world-renowned Kyiv Chamber Choir on a cross-Canada tour. Under the direction of Conductor Mykola Hobdych, the choir is performing 12 concerts across Canada.

Included in the itinerary are: Montreal, April 22; Ottawa, April 23, Toronto, April 24, St. Catharines, April 25; Victoria, April 27; Vancouver, April 28, Calgary, April 30; Edmonton, May 1; Saskatoon, May 2; Regina, May 3; Winnipeg, May 4 and Kitchener-Waterloo, May 5.

Winner of three Grand Prix Awards and other competitions with European choirs, the Kyiv Chamber Choir has a well-deserved international reputation as the foremost proponent of Ukrainian choral music.

The concert includes traditional sacred songs by master composers, in addition to some of Ukraine's most popular folk songs drawn from a musical heritage that extends back over 1,000 years. The 21 members of the ensemble also play traditional instruments. With choreography and colourful costumes, their entertaining performances always bring audiences to their feet.

The Georgia Straight described the Kyiv Chamber Choir as *"an ensemble of rare quality; a purveyor of music at its transcendent best."* The Ottawa Citizen said *"its appeal is universal...some of the finest choral singing heard here in years."*

Platinum Concerts is a Toronto-based organization whose primary goal is to bring the 'hidden treasure' of great Ukrainian choral music to mainstream audiences in North America. For more details about the Kyiv Chamber Choir's cross-Canada concert tour, please visit <www.platinumconcerts.com>.

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April 30	Calgary	Grace Presbyterian Church
May 1	Edmonton	First Presbyterian Church
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May 3	Regina	Knox Metropolitan Church
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Immigration wait times improve in 2008

Canada has reversed a decades-long trend toward longer immigration wait times, with prospective newcomers having their applications processed 12 per cent faster last year, reported The Canadian Press, March 25.

The 2008 figures from Citizenship and Immigration show 80 per cent of applications were processed within 33 months — a four-month improvement from 2007.

The government cites the snail's pace in dealing with applications as a factor that leads educated, highly mobile immigrants to choose other countries over Canada.

But critics say the modest dip in processing times does nothing to make Canada a more attractive destination.

Wait times remain longer than they were in 2004, and business-class immigrants from some countries need to wait more than seven years to have their applications accepted or denied.

Still, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says the tide has turned.

"This is a huge development,'" Kenney said in an interview.

"It's been at least two decades — a generation — since waiting times went down rather than up. ... We're talking about highly skilled, economic immigrants and we're competing with places like Australia, New Zealand and the United States for the best and the brightest.

"We were telling people to wait in the queue for five years. Where do you think the most competitive people are going to go — if they have to wait five years to come to Canada, versus six months for Australia?"

Only recently, he says, his New Zealand counterpart took a look at Canada's backlog numbers and offered to take some of those skilled workers off his hands.

But Kenney says Canada is only a few months slower and is closing the gap. He credited the shift in part to $109 million that helped hire visa workers, but also to legislative reforms and administrative changes.

Some of the files in Canada's bustling New Delhi office, for example, are now dealt with in relatively tranquil spots like Warsaw, Poland.

All this means Canada now processes old applications at least as fast as it receives new ones to add to the pile.

The backlog in applications skyrocketed to 900,000 from only 40,000 in the early 1990s. As Canadian immigration workers struggled to keep pace, wait times rose.

But opponents aren't impressed. They point to a series of rough patches in the Conservatives' track record.

The processing times for family members actually went up in 2008 — 20 per cent for dependent children, and more than 25 per cent for spouses and partners.

Ukrainian Canadian
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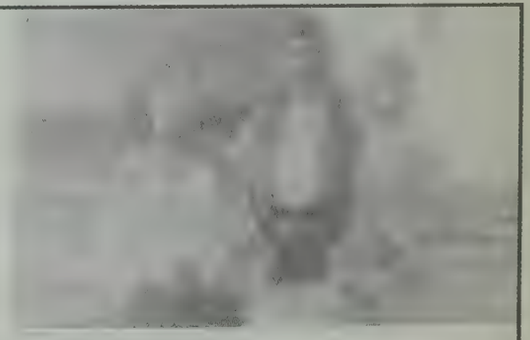

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Христос Воскрес!

Канадський інститут українських студій – провідний осередок українознавчих студій поза межами України – вітає українську громаду з Великоднем і бажає усім щастя і радости віри і благополуччя!

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КІУС CIUS

«Козацьке коріння Гоголя»: новий погляд на письменника

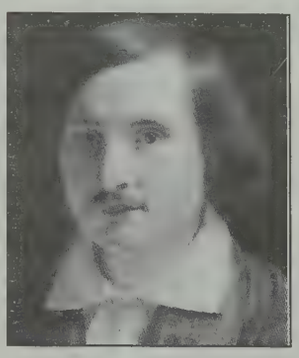
Богдана Костюк, *Радіо Свобода*

1 квітня світ відзначив 200-річчя від дня народження письменника Миколи Гоголя. Досі не вщухають наукові дискусії щодо його ролі в розвитку європейської прози, а політики в Україні і Росії дискутують: був Гоголь російським чи українським письменником? Тим часом, київський історик Тарас Чухліб у гоголівський ювілей презентує свою книгу-дослідження під назвою «Козацьке коріння Миколи Гоголя».

Усталений художній образ Миколи Гоголя насправді не завжди відповідав дійсності: київський історик Тарас Чухліб стверджує, що іноді письменник прогулювався Санкт-Петербургом, хизуючись «козацькою зачіскою» – так званим «оселедцем». А ще він цікавився українською історією, захоплювався українськими народними переказами і легендами.

Нічого дивного, адже був Микола Гоголь козацького роду. Тарас Чухліб каже, що серед пращурів письменника – наказний гетьман Правобережної України Остап Гоголь: славний воїн, який залишив по собі добру славу і нащадків, що жили на Полтавщині.

З Полтавщиною ж пов'язані і перші роки життя Миколи Гоголя: за словами Тараса Чухліба, ті місця, де пройшли дитинство, юність письменника, мали особливу історико-містичну ауру. Адже і у Великих Сорочинцях, і у Диканьці з покоління в покоління передавались «родинні легенди» про славних пращурів-козаків, про їхні подвиги і невмирущий волелюбний дух.



Микола Гоголь

«Читачу буде цікаво те, що Микола Гоголь був через родовід своєї матері – уродженої Косяровської – нащадком гетьмана Мазепи. Микола Гоголь також був через свою бабу, Тетяну Лизогуб, споріднений із родами Дорошенків і Скоропадських. Сучасній українській спільноті – ну і російській, і світовій теж – ці речі мало відомі», – каже Тарас Чухліб.

Чухліб уважає, що образ Тараса Бульби списаний письменником з його пращура – Остапа Гоголя, оскільки історію козацтва митець вивчав як справжній історик. За словами пана Чухліба, «він працював півтора року в Петербурзькому університеті, у нього є кілька історичних статей, які ввійшли у науковий обіг української і російської історіографії першої половини XIX ст., він вивчав історію свого родоводу і, зокрема, цікавився і читав, виписки робив із пам'яток української думки та історії: «Історія русів», «Літопис самовидця»; захоплювався «Історією Малоросії» Бантиш-Каменського. Отже, Микола Васильович знав добре козацьку історію».

І в циклі «Малоросійських повістей», потім у монументальному літературному полотні «Тарас Бульба», письменник відтворює історичну добу козаччини. Знав Микола Гоголь і про своє козацьке коріння, пишався ним, розповідає пан Чухліб.

Факти, які містяться у книжці Тараса Чухліба «Козацьке коріння Миколи Гоголя», створюють новий, нетиповий для дуже багатьох прихильників творчості письменника, образ.

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

Радісних Свят Христового Воскресення!

Українському народові в Діяспорі та Україні, українським Церквам, церковним, громадським і політичним організаціям та нашому членству і прихильникам бажають
Організації Українського Державницького Фронту при Домі Української Молоді в Едмонтоні

У Києві показують невідомі раніше рукописи Гоголя

Євген Солонина, *Радіо Свобода*

1 квітня виповнилося 200 років від дня народження видатного письменника, вихідця з України Миколи Гоголя. Нині важко знайти людину, яка б не читала його творів та не захоплювалася ними. Але, виявляється, безліч листів, рукописів та інших текстів, писаних рукою Гоголя, досі ніде не були опубліковані! На загальний огляд вони виставлені в експозиції «Гоголіана в архівних зібраннях», яку урочисто відкрили у Центральному державному архіві-музеї літератури і мистецтва України.

Більша частина листів Миколи Гоголя до сестер Марії, Єлизавети, Анни та Ольги, його листування з друзями досі не публікувалася навіть у так званих «повних» зібраннях творів письменника.

Щось знайшли у фондах Національної бібліотеки України імені Вернадського, у центральних та обласних державних архівах України. Частину вдалося розшукати в Російському державному архіві літератури і мистецтва.

Ці родинні документи з життя Гоголя вкрай важливі для розуміння його значення у світовій культурі. А крім того, вони свідчать, що головним джерелом творчості геніального письменника була українська земля, говорить учасник пошуку цих документів, голова Державного комітету архівів України Ольга Гінзбург.

«Коли я, виконуючи доручення уряду, зіткнулася з цими документами, то зрозуміла для себе: треба особливо висвітлювати постаті українців, які багато зробили для світу. Щоб на прикладі таких людей, як Гоголь, Шевченко та інших ми могли сказати: ми можемо багато. Тобто, ми, українці, маємо підкреслювати свій рівень», – вважає очільниця українських архівів.

Перші відвідувачі виставки зробили для себе безліч відкриттів. Взяти хоча б наповнені духом козаччини ескізи костюмів для першої постановки опери «Тарас Бульба». Або оригінали першого рукопису «Мертвих душ», які звучать дещо інакше, ніж звичний нам текст, який автор кілька разів прискіпливо редагував.

Видається дивним, але перші переклади Гоголя робилися не на англійську чи італійську, а на вірменську мову! Про це на відкритті виставки розповів Надзвичайний посланник Вірменії в Україні Дживан Мовсесян.

«Гоголя перекладали на вірменську ще тоді, коли він тільки починав писати. Це робили представники вірменської діаспори в Росії. І завдяки їм на сьогодні є переклади усіх творів Гоголя. Взагалі твори Гоголя – це шедеври світової літератури. Я прочитав майже увесь його доробок. Мені особисто надзвичайно подобається «Ревізор»...», – розповів представник посольства Вірменії. Ювілейна виставка у Києві показує, що насправді ми знаємо про Гоголя неприпустимо мало, зауважив радник-посланник Російської Федерації в Україні Всеволод Лоскутов.

«Треба вивчати Гоголя! І не лише його художні твори, а й історичні документи. Тому цей захід важливий не лише як святковий, а й як науковий. Частина з оприлюднених тут документів була невідома навіть історикам! Я обов'язково розповім про них російським дослідникам Гоголя», – зазначив російський дипломат.

Виставка до 200-річчя Миколи Гоголя триватиме ще два тижні. Подібні виставки книг та документів до ювілею письменника одночасно діють і в Москві.

Вітаємо з нагоди Великого Празника Воскресіння Христового та бажаємо щастя, кріпкого здоров'я і всього найкращого.

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"Encounter" of Ukrainian hierarchs in North America

(RISU)—For the fourth time in the last eight years the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in North America have met in a brotherly "Encounter" to discuss the relationship between the two Churches and the common concerns they share in shepherding the faithful entrusted to their spiritual care.

The meeting took place in Clearwater, Florida on March 12-13 following separate meetings of the two groups of hierarchs just preceding the Encounter.

Taking part in the meeting from the Churches in the United States and Canada were: Metropolitans Constantin, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – USA; Stefan, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Metropolitan John, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Metropolitan Lawrence, Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada; Archbishops Antonii, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – USA; Yurii – Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Bishops David, Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada; Paul – Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Richard, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; John, Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Ken, Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada; Andrii, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada; Daniel, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – USA; Bryan, Ukrainian Catholic Church, Canada. A guest participating in the Encounter was Archbishop Jeremiah, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and Latin America. Unable to attend this year's meeting were: Bishop Robert – Ukrainian Catholic Church – USA; Bishops Stephen - Ukrainian Catholic Church – Canada and Ilarion, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Canada.

Of primary concern to the hierarchs was the present state of ecclesiastical life in Ukraine in all jurisdictions and the fate of the Churches under the present unfortunate political divisions within the Ukrainian government and in Ukrainian society as a whole.

In the minds of all the hierarchs present at the Encounter, Christian witness in Ukraine is not only endangered by the disarray in government and societal life, but damage is actually being done to the efforts toward ecclesiastical unity and the Christian service to those in Ukrainian society who are most in need.

The consensus of opinion of the Encounter participants, having heard from the Orthodox hierarchs about the recent visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to Kyiv, was that it was a positive event, which can result in consequences beneficial to all Christianity in Ukraine.

The Catholic hierarchs shared their experiences in relationship to their brother hierarchs in Ukraine, in particular information about the progress of construction and program development at the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Sobor in Kyiv.

The hierarchs are of one mind in the belief that the Church must reclaim its place as the moral conscience of the Ukrainian nation — a role denied to the hierarchs — or abandoned by some — during the long, dark night of communist subjugation. The Encounter participants agreed to explore the ways in which both the Churches of Constantinople and Rome can be encouraged to promote the stabilization and independence of ecclesiastical life in Ukraine, particularly in light of possible challenges to that independence that may result from political changes in the government and in the church of neighboring Russia.

Lengthy discussion was devoted to a thorough examination of Church life in both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches in North America. The hierarchs were greatly concerned about declining membership in so many parishes and the conditions, which seem to exacerbate this critical problem. The hierarchs will continue to discuss on a regular basis in upcoming meetings new possibilities for jointly conducting youth ministry, programs related to clergy education and welfare, adult education. They hope to share in a common outreach to their faithful in confronting the effects of the secularization of society on the life of both Churches and the threats to Christian life, which abound in the moral, ethical and social issues facing those societies and, indeed, Ukrainian community life in both Canada and the United States. The hierarchs concluded that there is an enormous need to devote much more prayer and time contemplating and focusing upon the manner in which the Church gives witness in an ever-changing society.

The Encounter participants repeatedly stressed that there is much more that unites, rather than divides us in fulfilling our responsibilities before God. They are convinced that the Holy Spirit is at work in their gatherings and that there is a need to closely examine the paths to a deeper ecclesiastical relationship between them, benefiting all the faithful entrusted to their care. To this end, they envision their meetings evolving into a permanent Eastern Christian Dialogue, which will enable such an examination and even provide a focus for the more general and long-established Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue.

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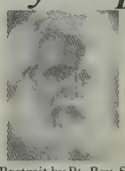

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Ukraine in top seven most religious countries in Europe

(RISU)—The results of a 2008 survey on religion and religiosity conducted by the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) were presented on the UNIAN website on March 26.

According to the 40-country 60-question survey, Ukraine is in the seven most religious countries in Europe. That being said, the survey also found that the majority of Ukrainians who call themselves Orthodox do not consider themselves part of any particular church institution, and that there are almost no registered representatives of new religious movements.

The survey was conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in conjunction with the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Kyiv Center of Sociological Research.

Here are some of the results of the survey:

"I believe in God now and have always believed." One in five respondents (21%) did not believe in the past but have recently become believers (that is, three quarters of the population of Ukraine consider themselves faithful). One in nine (11%) never believed in God or stopped believing. 15 % did not answer this question. 26.3% of Orthodox believers and 3.6 % of Greek Catholics admitted that they did not believe in the past but are faithful now.

The majority of faithful Ukrainians (91%) are Christians. 39% of believers belong to one of the three main Orthodox churches: Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. 44% called themselves Orthodox without identifying themselves with any particular church. 8 % are Greek Catholics. Protestants — more than 1 %. Other denominations — less than 1%.

According to the ISSP survey, about 90% of the respondents consider themselves religious.

Traditionally, women are more religious.

The Ukrainian youth is more religious than European youth. _The survey confirmed that the percentage of people who consider themselves religious is approximately the same in all the age groups.

Geographically, the Western Ukraine is more religious than Eastern Ukraine (70% of respondents in the former consider themselves religious).

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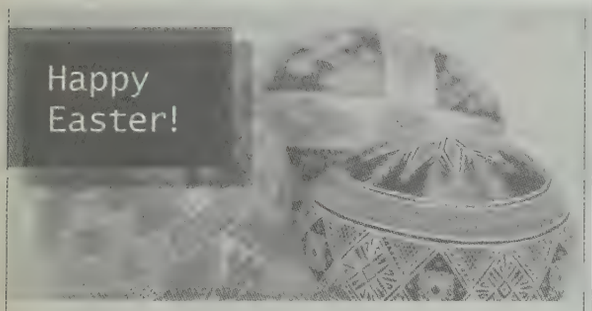

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Seated, Left to Right: John Boyko, President CUCC Alberta, Director CUCC National; Zenon Poticzny, President CUCC National. Standing, Left to Right: Taras Zalusky, Director CUCC National; John Iwaniura, Vice President CUCC National; Yarema Shulakewych, Director CUCC Alberta; Slavka Shulakewych, Vice President CUCC Alberta, Director CUCC National; John Chomiak, Vice President (Western Canada) CUCC National; Fedir Tsisar, Director CUCC Alberta; Khrystia Kohut; Treasurer CUCC Alberta; Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director CUCC Alberta.

Ukrainian-Canadian Business Forum postponed for a year

Business

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian-Canadian Business Forum originally scheduled to be held in Edmonton May 20-22, 2009, has been postponed to June 2010.

The decision, which was made at a joint meeting of the representatives of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (National) and CUCC (Alberta) in Edmonton, March 26, is largely due to logistics and the current economic situation.

The new date will coincide with the International Petroleum Show in Calgary, which many Ukrainian firms are planning to attend, but will be held in Edmonton.

The main aim of the Business Forum is to discuss key issues of trade and investment between Canada and Ukraine including the possibility of to create a free trade zone; investments in the economies of Ukraine and Canada; a study of the international management experience in gas transportation system; establishing, based on Alberta's experience, a transparent, efficient and stable royalty and tax system for the oil and gas industry in Ukraine; enhance cooperation in energy and agriculture.

Main sessions would include cooperation in oil and gas; agriculture; P3 projects; problems and prospects of regional and municipal cooperation; labour and intellectual property transfers.

Both the Alberta provincial government and the City of Edmonton seemed supportive of such an initiative.

It was decided that a committee would be struck, led by the Alberta CUCC chapter, with representatives from CUCC National and Alberta participating. It was also mentioned that both Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine G. Daniel Caron and Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Ihor Ostash are both very supportive of the initiative.

The Board meeting was attended by 14 board members including proxies. CUCC National Vice President John Iwaniura debriefed the board on the meeting held with Ambassador Caron in Toronto. The format was a lunch meeting where Ambassador Caron described his experience and first impressions, obstacles and the current situation in Ukraine including the credit crunch. Some of the direct questions to the Ambassador included problems with business visas for Ukrainian business people. Subsequent to these meetings, the immigration department has requested a meeting with CUCC to directly discuss the issues involved.

CUCC National President Zenon Poticzny has updated the board on the status of the CUCC office in Kyiv. Currently Canada's CUCC is going through a process of registering a CUCC in Ukraine and hopes to have that completed in the near future. He also mentioned that a small but very prestigious location has been negotiated for an office in downtown Kyiv. There is a possibility of having official opening of the CUCC office in Kyiv during Governor General Michaelle Jean's visit to Ukraine at the end of April.

Other business included discussions on raising visibility of CUCC in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. A list of the contact names and the people responsible was drawn up and the report is expected for the AGM.

A breakfast meeting was attended by six board members (Taras Zalusky, John Iwaniura, Zenon Poticzny, John Chomiak, Slavka Shulakewych and John Boyko) and the following guests: Alberta Aboriginal relations Minister and Deputy Government House Leader Gene Zwozdesky; Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, Doug Elniski MLA; Dr. Gerald Krispin, President of Concordia University; Martin Salloum, President of Edmonton Chamber of Commerce; Sharon McLean from Edmontonians; Ann Semotiuk and Lubomyr Markevych.

The current membership of the CUCC stands at 74 CUCC National and 55 CUCC Alberta for a total of 129. John Boyko, President of Alberta CUCC mentioned that CUCC Alberta was receiving many inquires about membership.

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Participants at the Edmnton meeting watch the Skyope transmission.

Residential U.S. property among best investments, P and B's told

(UkrNews)-Residential property in distressed, but still economically stable, areas of the U.S. (e.g., Phoenix, Palm Springs, Las Vegas, parts of California and south Florida), may be the best investment opportunities in the next 12 to 24 months, says a Ukrainian Canadian investment expert.

Another good move is to keep a significant portion of your portfolio in short-term inflation-indexed bonds or Exchange Transfer Funds (ETFs) that invest in or track the performance of these bonds, Bohdan Romaniuk told a joint gathering of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Calgary and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton.

This was the fourth year Romaniuk presented his annual market forecast to the Calgary Club, but the first year the Edmonton club was connected by satellite.

Although there were several times the Skype transmission broke down, Romaniuk provided a copy of his power point presentation to all the Edmonton attendees.

Romaniuk also suggested ETFs that go up as U.S. bond prices fall, ETFs that go up when major stock market indices fall — but only after the next bear market rally ends

Other good investment opportunities include relatively recession-resistant stocks like utilities, pipeline, infrastructure and telecom stocks the largest, most stable, and most conservative oil and gas producers, physical gold, physical silver mining and natural resource royalty companies, major gold producers with mines in "friendly" jurisdictions major silver producers and small "joint venture model" natural resource and precious metals. Uranium stocks will likely emerge as winners towards the end of this period, he added.

He also suggested cutting back on expenditures, paying back debt to your comfort zone, and building up cash reserves.

Romaniuk said that's what's in store for the next two years is: Currency debasement everywhere but, remarkably, a higher U.S. dollar (in the short to medium run) relative to most other currencies, especially the Euro and the Yen; Higher interest rates (especially towards the end of the period); Lower residential and, especially, commercial real estate prices; Zero to negative economic growth; A continuation of the bear market in equities (punctuated with high volatility and one or more, potentially significant, technical corrections) and the start of a major, long-term bear market in bonds; Higher oil and natural gas prices; Higher gold and silver prices; Increased risk of exchange controls (i.e., laws restricting private ownership of, or transactions in, foreign currencies and gold); Increased trade friction and calls for more protectionism and ; The possibility of social unrest.

He was highly critical of the U.S. governments current recovery plan estimated to cost a phenomenal $13 trillion. This can only be financed by higher taxes, more borrowing or "Quantitative easing", which really means printing money.

It is also calls for bailing out financial institutions whose irresponsible behaviour caused the problems in the first place, he said.

"As long as the banking system is premised on the exercise of excessive leverage, the U.S. economy will continue to suffer the ill-effects of exercising that leverage," Romaniuk noted.

Instead, the U.S. government should allow businesses, including banks, to fail. (Those that can still be salvaged can enter Chapter 11 bankruptcy can be restructured and re-organized.)

"The excesses of the past need to be cleansed from the system. Asset prices need to keep falling until markets can be cleared and new owners emerge who can re-allocate resources to their best uses and more efficiently and profitably manage them.

"Monetary and banking reform is required, starting with a complete overhaul, if not the elimination, of the Federal Reserve.

"At a minimum, stringent limits on the issuance of fiat currency should be imposed (e.g. tighter reserve requirements and a prohibition on running federal budget deficits financed by the printing press).

"Preferably, the Government should return to the gold standard, a monetary system in which the $U.S. dollar would be made convertible to gold at a fixed ratio," he added.

"Such a step would, in a single step, eliminate taxation by monetary inflation — the most invidious, pervasive and inequitable form of taxation ever devised.

"A strong currency is the bedrock of a strong economy and a productive and stable society," said Romaniuk.

Ukraine vows timely payment for gas

(RFE/RL/Reuters)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has pledged that Ukraine's state energy company Naftogaz would make timely, full payment for gas shipments in March by Russian giant Gazprom.

"I am pleased to announce that from February 1, payment for gas has been proceeding in timely fashion," Tymoshenko told a news conference after a cabinet meeting.

"In January, payment was made in full and on time, as was done in February. For March, the same payment will be made as set down in the contract. There will no longer be any instability in Naftogaz's activity," she said.

Under a contract signed in January to end a dispute that led to an interruption of more than two weeks in supplies of Russian gas, Ukraine agreed to make payments for gas by the seventh day of the following month.

In case of a failure to pay, the contract specifies that Naftogaz will have to pay for supplies in advance.

"We are bringing together the funds for payment," Naftogaz spokesman Valentyn Zemlyansky said by telephone.

The standoff in January was linked to disputes over price and payment arrears, leaving millions of European consumers who rely on flows through Ukraine's pipelines without supplies of Russian gas.

Tymoshenko, estranged ally of President Viktor Yushchenko, clinched a deal to end the standoff under which Ukraine is to pay more for its gas — $360 for 1,000 cubic meters in the first quarter against $179.50 last year.

The president criticized the accord as a "defeat," while the prime minister said it was the best available deal.

Naftogaz has secured credits from state banks to help make payments to Gazprom.

Ukrainian media say the primary creditor is state Oshchadbank, which provided 19.33 billion hryvnias (US$2.51 billion) and estimate Naftogaz's debts at about 34.5 billion hryvnias (US$4.5 billion). The company is believed to have to pay off about 25 billion hryvnias in debt this year.

The company says its financial problems are compounded by the low rates that Ukrainian utilities still pay for gas.

Parliament has yet to consider a plan to balance Naftogaz's finances as part of legislation needed to restore the flow of credits from a $16.4 International Monetary Fund loan.

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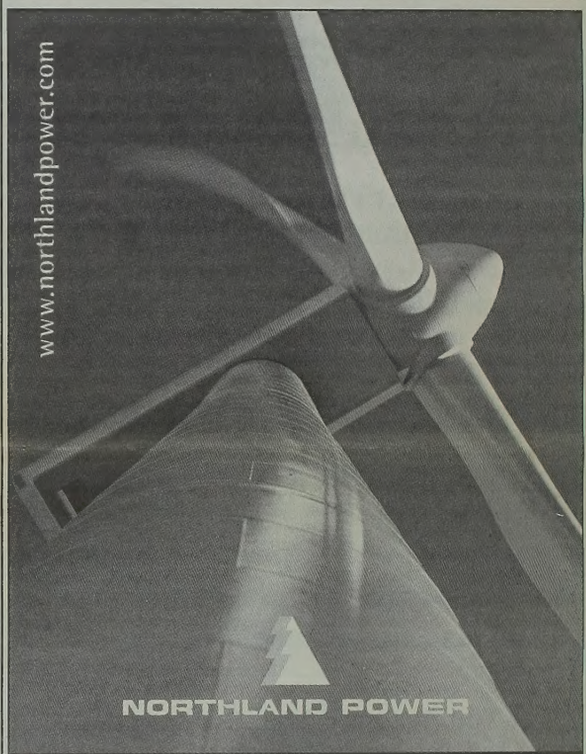

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Le Guen on course for Dynamo treble

Sports

(UEFA)—Paris Saint-Germain FC coach Paul Le Guen will look to make it three wins in a row against FC Dynamo Kyiv when the two teams meet in Paris in the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final tie, April 9.

PSG and Dynamo have met before, with then coach Luis Fernandez's PSG twice overcoming Jozsef Szabo's Dynamo in the 1994/95 UEFA Champions League group stage.

Le Guen played at the back for PSG in both matches, while goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy, then just 19 but now 34, appeared in both games for Dynamo.

PSG have won all four of their previous games against Ukrainian sides, scoring eight goals and conceding just one. That solitary strike came away against Dynamo in 1994.

Dynamo have avoided defeat only once on French soil, winning 3-1 at RC Lens in the 1998/99 UEFA Champions League.

Dynamo have lost their two previous knockout ties against French teams, losing against AS Saint-Etienne in the 1975/76 European Champion Clubs' Cup quarter-finals and Stade Lavallois-Mayenne FC in the first round of the 1983/84 UEFA Cup.

This is Le Guen's first game against a Ukrainian outfit since he moved into coaching.

Dynamo boss Yuri Semin coached FC Lokomotiv Moskva when they faced AS Monaco FC in the 2003/04 UEFA Champions League first knockout round. His charges won 2-1 at home but bowed out on away goals after a 1-0 loss in France.

PSG's Jerome Rothen played in both legs of that match for Monaco, while his Parc des Princes teammate Ludovic Giuly was an unused substitute in the first fixture.

Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko expressed her gratitude to Dynamo, Shakhtar and eliminated FC Metalist Kharkiv for their achievements after the three Premier League teams competed in the Round of 16, saying their success augured well for Ukraine's co-hosting of UEFA EURO 2012™.

French League Cup holders PSG qualified for the Round of 32 as third-placed finishers in Group A. They then proved too strong for VfL Wolfsburg in the Round of 32, winning 2-0 at home and 3-1 away. Le Guen's men lived on their nerves in the Round of 16, drawing 0-0 at home against SC Braga before prevailing 1-0 in Portugal.

Runners-up in the Ukrainian Premier League last season, Dynamo finished third in UEFA Champions League Group G to reach the UEFA Cup Round of 32. Having overcome Valencia on away goals to reach the Round of 16, drawing 1-1 in Ukraine and 2-2 in Spain, they then got the better of Metalist on away goals, winning 1-0 at home but losing 3-2 in Kharkiv.

The second leg will be held at the Valeriy Lobanovskiy stadium on April 16. The winners of this tie will meet either Shakhtar or Marseille in the semi-finals on April 30 and May 7, playing the first leg at home. The winners of that semi-final will be the nominal home side in the final at the Sukru Saracoglu Stadium in Istanbul on May 20.

Lucescu and Gerets reunited in Donetsk

(UEFA)—Mircea Lucescu and Erik Gerets will meet again in a different city as FC Shakhtar Donetsk look to build a decisive first-leg advantage at home against UEFA Cup quarter-final veterans Olympique de Marseille, April 9.

Shakhtar have never lost at home against a French side, but both their most recent home meetings with Ligue 1 opponents have ended in draws.

Shakhtar have played three knockout ties against French clubs, winning one and losing two.

Marseille have met Shakhtar's Ukrainian rivals FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk in two UEFA club competition ties, winning both of them. They triumphed 1-0 on aggregate in the 2003/04 UEFA Cup third round and won a 2006 UEFA Intertoto Cup tie on away goals after two draws.

Both Shakhtar's Lucescu (2000-02) and Marseille's Gerets (2005-07) had spells at the helm of Galatasaray A_. This should motivate them yet further to reach this season's UEFA Cup final, which will be held at Fenerbahce SK's Sukru Saracoglu Stadium in Istanbul on May 20.

The two coaches have met before with previous clubs. Lucescu's Galatasaray were paired with Gerets's PSV Eindhoven in the 2001/02 UEFA Champions League first group stage, with the Dutch outfit winning 3-1 at home and Galatasaray striking back 2-0 in Turkey. Thus honours are even going into the coaches' third competitive meeting.

Lucescu has been in charge for 12 games against French clubs during his time at FC Rapid Bucuresti, Galatasaray and Shakhtar, with his overall record reading P12 W5 D3 L4. At home, his coaching record reads P6 W2 D3 L1.

Gerets's only previous experience of Ukrainian opponents dates back to his days as PSV's right-back, when his side met Dnipro in the 1985/86 UEFA Cup second round. After a 2-2 draw in Eindhoven, the Dutch heavyweights bowed out following a 1-0 defeat in the former Soviet Union.

Marseille boast Ukrainian talent in the form of 21-year-old goalkeeper Dmytro Nepogodov, though the club's reserve custodian has yet to be handed a first-team outing. OM also had a Ukrainian goalkeeper back in 1951/52, with Gamovka-born Pierre Pshenitchny making one league appearance.

Ukrainian champions Shakhtar finished third in UEFA Champions League Group C to reach the UEFA Cup Round of 32, where they beat Tottenham Hotspur FC 2-0 at home before drawing the return leg 1-1 in London. They lost 1-0 at PFC CSKA Moskva in the first leg of their Round of 16 tie but progressed after a 2-0 home success.

Shakhtar are the only team left in the UEFA Cup who qualified for Europe this season as domestic champions.

Third in Ligue 1 last season, Marseille also finished third in UEFA Champions League Group D to qualify for the UEFA Cup Round of 32, where they beat FC Twente 7-6 on penalties in Enschede after trading 1-0 home defeats. They then edged out AFC Ajax to reach the last eight, trading 2-1 home wins over 90 minutes before clinching a 4-3 aggregate success thanks to Tyrone Mears's extra-time header in Amsterdam.

The second leg, which will be Shakhtar's 50th UEFA Cup game, is to be played at the Stade Velodrome on April 16. The winners of this tie will meet Paris Saint-Germain FC or Dynamo in the semi-finals onApril 30 and May 7, playing the second leg at home. The winners of that semi-final will be the nominal home side in the final.

Serbia holds Ukraine to a draw in Under 21

(UEFA)—A second-half penalty stop from Zeljko Brkic saved UEFA European Under-21 Championship soccer finalists Serbia from a home defeat in Jagodina, March 27.

The FK Vojvodina goalkeeper kept out Andriy Yarmolenko's 79th-minute spot-kick after the latter had been fouled by Milan Smiljanic while leading a Ukrainian counter-attack. Serbia, who had several promising chances to take the lead themselves earlier in the half, are next in action on Wednesday when they host Romania in Kragujevac.

Shots from outside the penalty area from Manchester United FC midfielder Zoran Tosic and Ljubomir Fejsa were the sum total of a lacklustre encounter until both goalkeepers took centre stage. Ukraine captain Olexandr Rybka denied Tosic a sublime end to his 57th-minute dribble into the area and then blocked two efforts from Marko Milinkovic before Brkic showed his prowess by keeping out FC Dynamo Kyiv forward Yarmolenko.

Zeljko Brkic (right) saved a penalty for Serbia.

England edges Ukraine at Wembley

(FIFA)—John Terry came to England's rescue with an 86th-minute header to keep Fabio Capello's 2010 FIFA World Cup™ road train steaming towards South Africa.

When Chelsea misfit Andriy Shevchenko flashed home an equaliser for Ukraine, who were trailing to Peter Crouch's opener, that familiar Wembley gloom started to descend. It took Terry to raise the roof, smartly steering home Steven Gerrard's knock-down from a trademark David Beckham free-kick to make it five Group Six wins on the trot for Capello and his boys. Capello's double-fisted victory celebration emphasised the importance of Terry's goal.

Artem Milevskyy of Ukraine (R) is challenged by Ashley Cole of England (C). AFP PHOTO/IAN KINGTON

As Ukraine must meet Croatia on June 6, the same day as England take on Kazakhstan, the Three Lions will return to base to face Andorra four days later knowing their place at the biggest stage of all could be virtually secure four months ahead of schedule. This was not a fluent England performance. There was too much hesitancy and too many unforced errors for that.

Full-backs Glen Johnson and Ashley Cole were among the culprits, so too was Steven Gerrard, who needlessly gave the ball away close to his own area; not that the Ukraine side could take advantage. Most obvious though was David James' misread of Anatoliy Tymoshchuk's long-range shot which bounced off his shoulder.

England were already in front by that stage, thanks to one of the flashes of inspiration which were the opening period's staple diet. Wayne Rooney provided it with a deft flicked header that bounced wide off a defender to earn England a corner which Frank Lampard dropped on to the head of Chelsea team-mate John Terry.

The England skipper could not get enough power into his effort to cause any damage himself. What he did manage to do was guide it into the path of Crouch, who turned smartly and let fly with a six-yard volley which cannoned into Andrii Piatov before zooming into the net.

Yet if the Portsmouth star's 15th international goal was the tangible evidence of England's bright new world, the performance of Rooney was a pretty spectacular supporting act.

The overhead kick that brushed the roof of Piatov's net after just seven minutes was awesome in its simplicity and he looked well set to burst clear inside the Ukraine penalty area when he was mercilessly chopped down on England's next attack.

Steven Gerrard curled the free-kick narrowly wide after Rooney had been upended. The Liverpool star also got on the end of Rooney's low cross at the end of the half, only for Piatov to make a solid save to repel the side-footed shot.

The belated introduction of Shevchenko ten minutes into the second-half offered the visiting fans something to cheer, even, as if to ensure the Ukrainians were drowned out, Capello responded by bringing on David Beckham for his 110th cap.

By that point, Rooney had embarked on another startling run which began just inside the visitors' half and left four defenders trailing in his wake before his shot fizzed wide, Piatov uncertain whether he needed to try and keep it out or not.

Rooney continued to sprinkle the game with his unique talent. Unfortunately, after two years at Chelsea doing little to justify his £30million price tag and vast salary, Shevchenko finally did something worthy of his reputation. His instinctive finish looked like wrecking England's 100 per cent recordAfter 24 ill-fated months at Stamford Bridge, he should have known Terry a bit better than that.

Clinical Shakhtar claim CSKA scalp

(UEFA)—Second-half goals from Fernandinho and Luiz Adriano booked FC Shakhtar Donetsk's place in the quarter-final draw, the Ukrainian side overcoming a first-leg deficit to shock 2005 UEFA Cup winners PFC CSKA Moskva, March 19.

Much of the talk before the game centred on CSKA striker Vagner Love, whose successful spot-kick in the previous week's 1-0 first-leg victory took him to eleven goals for the campaign. Yet, having withstood a fair amount of pressure before the interval, Shakhtar started to replace graft with craft after the restart and within nine minutes they had their reward as Pavel Mamaev brought down Fernandinho in the penalty area. The Brazilian duly converted from the spot, setting the scene for compatriot Luiz Adriano to seal an impressive turnaround with 20 minutes remaining.

The relative ease with which the hosts ended the match in Donetsk was in marked contrast to the opening stages as the visitors began brightly, with Alan Dzagoev's curling shot forcing a good early save from Andriy Pyatov. The onus to score, of course, was on Shakhtar and Olexandr Gladkiy was rising to the challenge, heading over the bar before sending in another effort that forced Igor Akinfeev into action. Jadson also threatened but the first half concluded as it had started, with CSKA on the attack and Sergei Ignashevich fired a free-kick wide.

Fernandinho's penalty, lashed into the bottom left corner, finally wrested the initiative away from CSKA and, after Jadson had squandered another chance, the Shakhtar No7 was instrumental in what proved to be the winner. Cutting in from the left flank, Fernandinho's cross looped high into the air off a defender's leg and, under pressure from Olexandr Kucher, Akinfeev could only clear as far as Luiz Adriano, who side-footed in. Still the home side attacked with Darijo Srna twice threatening from free-kicks and Mariusz Lewandowski sending a close-range effort over but it mattered not as Shakhtar joined FC Dynamo Kyiv in the last eight. Before March 19, no other Ukrainian side had reached the UEFA Cup quarter-finals.

Igor Duljaj blocks Caner Erkin's pass.

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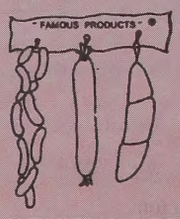

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President of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy to visit Canada

(CUF)—The Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) has announced that Dr. Serhiy Kvit, the President of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) in Kyiv, Ukraine, will be making a cross-Canada tour organized by CUF from April 28 to May 5.

The Foundation, with the cooperation of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, is organizing Dr. Kvit's tour of major Ukrainian centres in Canada that will include Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Edmonton and Calgary. The aim of the tour is to promote the purpose and activities of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy as well as to garner financial, organizational and academic support for NaUKMA's future growth and development.

The tour will include meetings with the Ukrainian community, presentations on the current activities and plans of the Academy, discussions with representatives from Canadian Universities and Colleges, and several fundraising banquets. Specific dates and details will be released within the next few weeks.

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is the oldest institute of higher learning in Ukraine, having been founded in 1632. It is located in the Podil district of Kyiv and has a current enrolment of some 3,000 students. It offers a broad array of courses in both Ukrainian and English, and is particularly renowned for its business school, regarded as the best in Ukraine. It has ties to numerous universities and institutes in Ukraine and abroad including an active partnership in Canada with the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan College (Edmonton), the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario (London), and the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg).

Dr. Kvit was elected President of NaUKMA in 2007, succeeding Dr. Vyacheslav Brioukhovetsky, the Academy's first President subsequent to its revival in 1991 following Ukraine's independence. Dr. Kvit is one of Ukraine's most respected scholars in the field of communications, journalism and philology. He is the author of seven books and numerous other publications.

CUF is a non-profit corporation registered under the Canada Corporations Act by Letters Patent issued on August 28, 1995. It is recognized by Revenue Canada as an organization that qualifies for tax-exempt status as a registered charity with an official registration number. CUF is also registered as a charitable foundation in Ukraine through its subsidiary — "Klen Foundation".

CUF was founded in 1995 as an initiative of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) for the purpose of developing, organizing, coordinating and delivering aid programs to Ukraine. The scope of these programs encompasses humanitarian, social, educational, health, civil society and religious issues and needs. In this endeavour, the CUF works closely with the UCC, the Shevchenko Foundation and numerous other Ukrainian-Canadian non-profit and charitable organizations.

Over the course of its existence, the CUF has been involved in a number of important projects and initiatives. Probably the most significant has been the organization and funding of Election Observer Missions to Ukraine in the wake of the Orange Revolution (with a total of $1.5 million raised) Also of note has been the "Children's Hospital of the Future" project in Kyiv (a $1.0 million donation), as well as numerous exchange and assistance projects with Ukrainian universities and educational institutions coordinated through the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan College of Edmonton, Alberta. All told, the CUF has managed to direct more than $3 million in aid projects to Ukraine over the past eight years.

Among notable recent new initiatives is a project to assist in the continuing expansion and development of the National University – Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA).

The CUF maintains an office in Winnipeg as well as one in Lviv, Ukraine. The current President of the CUF is Bohdan Onyschuk of Toronto. The Board of Directors of the CUF is composed of representatives of virtually all the major Ukrainian organizations in Canada as well as distinguished scholars, businessmen and politicians, including Andrew Robinson, former Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine.

The NaUKMA building in Kyiv.

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Omelian Kovch proclaimed Patron of pastors of UGCC

(RISU)—On March 25, the 65th anniversary of the death of Omelian Kovch, the blessed holy martyr was proclaimed Patron of the pastors of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at the former location of the Nazi concentration camp Maidanek, Poland.

During the event, an obelisk quoting the Omelian was unveiled: "Here I see God, who is the same for all regardless of religious differences."

The event was attended by UGCC bishops from Ukraine and Poland, the Roman Catholic Metropolitan of Lublin, the Ukrainian Vice Premier Ivan Vasiunyk, the Polish Minister of culture and national heritage, Piotr Zhukhovskyi, a representative of the Secretariat of the Polish President, representatives of local authorities, the Jewish community, and UGCC priests.

UOC-KP Bishop of Ternopil consecrated

(RISU)—On March 29, Patriarch Filaret, the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church –Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP), consecrated Pavlo (Kravchuk) as bishop of the Ternopil and Terebovlia Eparchy of the UOC-KP at St. Volodymyr's Cathedral in Kyiv.

Said eparchy was established on March 12 in order to admit 33 parishes of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church into the UOC-KP in the Western Ukrainian region of Ternopil.